

Delivering food in viral times



IndiSciCovid

by Indian Scientists Response to Covid

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Indian
Scientists'
Response to
COVID-19

Karthik is like a superman in the locality these days. He is out by 6 AM, clean after a bath, to deliver the morning milk. He drops the milk packet into a bag tied outside the door or leaves it on the floor. It is easy to practice physical distancing with milk and stay safe, but in the evening, he delivers food, and that's when he has to get creative.

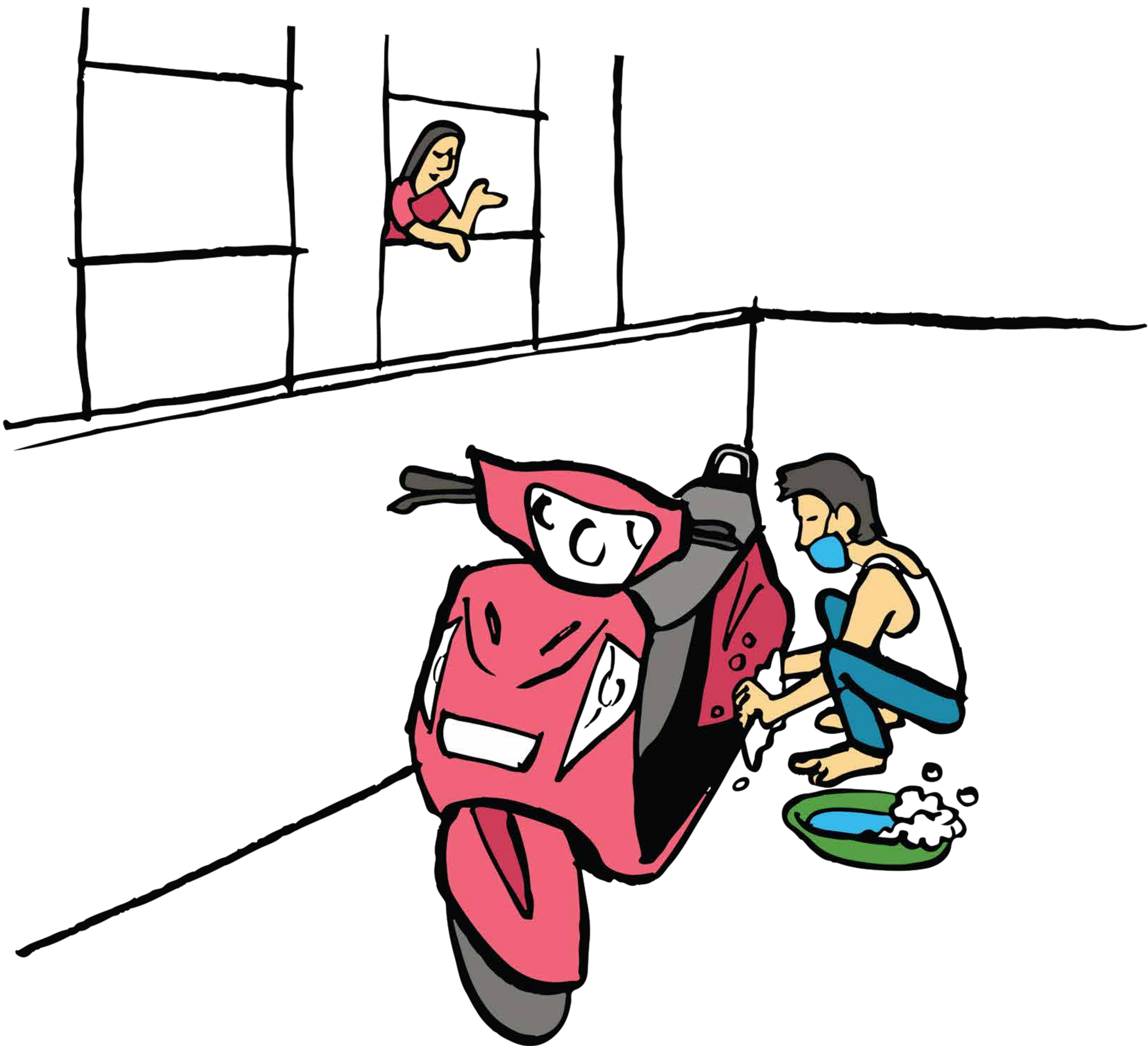
In one week, he has seen his customers get very tech-savvy. Most houses switched to online payment apps and had a bag kept outside. Those who still paid with cash left the money inside the bag. Once, one of his customers requested Karthik to come inside and leave the food on the table. The family inside walked like they were in a march past drill, with more than an arm's distance from Karthik!



Karthik's wife Devi wanted to help him stay safe while at work, so she sewed a new pouch for him to collect all the money he gets. She also made a morning checklist for him to remind him of his mask, hand sanitiser and packed lunch with a spoon.



Peeping through their window, Laila and Ramesh, Karthick's next door neighbours, greeted him. "You can still go out during this lock down. How lucky!" remarked Laila, who was bored of sitting at home, with not much work to do. Both were staring at Karthik cleaning his scooter outside after his last delivery. Ramesh teased him about sounding so muffled through his disposable mask as he couldn't understand a word he said. Calling it a day, Karthik removed his mask very carefully, and dropped them in a small mug. "What is in that mug?" asked Laila curiously. "It's just bleach and water, to clean the mask before we throw them away. I stitched a mask from an old cotton sari, but he refuses to wear it because it has flowers on it!" replied Devi, who came out to join the conversation.



Karthik came in, removed his clothes and put them in a bucket that Devi had kept next to their sofa. He would soon wash them with detergent and hang them on the clothesline. Laila turned to Ramesh and sighed, “Look how responsible Karthik is! He even washes his own clothes!” “Thanks to this coronavirus, not only does he now wash his own clothes, but the scooter also gets cleaned everyday!” replied Devi with a teasing smile. She continued, “Karthik’s responsibility is very high at this time. He needs to work and be so careful while meeting people. If he coughs even once, I get so scared. We take all the precautions we can.”



“Don’t worry, he is being so attentive to all these guidelines on staying safe! He’s our local superhero helping people in his own way!” cheered Laila.

These are meant to portray typical scenarios and contextualise the information we provide. Necessarily this simplifies the content. Please make sure that you go through the accompanying documents on the website for scientific accuracy.

