Slight improvements can be felt in the city. Sarcastic: A full 800 dead only 100 dead a day now. But still not enough hospital beds. Therefore not all 7 criteria are fulfilled to achieve more loosening, as in other federal states.

But there is still a high risk of infection in public transport (subways) and in the suburbs and social hotspots. Only grocery stores are open, with special opening hours for senior citizens. The other shops are still closed. Many luxury brands have emptied the shops (e.g. Prada). The question will be whether they will open again. On Madison Avenue alone there are 39 shops for rent. The prices are much too high.

The fashion focus is shifting more and more downtown. Interesting the new mall: Hudson Yards.

**Md Sadiq / India**

The Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi announced the first lockdown in India on 25th March 2020. At that point of time, there were only a handful of Corona positive cases. Lockdown 1.0 was to prevent the
spread of the pandemic. It's over 60 days now and we are reeling under LOCKDOWN 4.0 which is expected to conclude on 31st May 2020.

Government of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19 the Corona Virus. With active support of the people of India, we have been able to contain the spread of the Virus in our country. As of date, there are 1.4 lakh confirmed cases with 57,000 recovered and 4100 deaths.

INDIAN ECONOMY: Special economic packages have been announced by the Government of India to the extent of 10% of the GDP. During the period of LOCKDOWN 3.0, the Government announced re-opening of factories in industrial zones. Train services and flights have resumed in a very small way. Public transport like buses, local trains and metros are yet to function.

INDIA and Leather/ Leather Products Industry: Tanneries and shoes/ bag factories have opened up but with just 50% workforce to comply with social distancing norms. Tanneries/ Product factories are executing the orders on hand, but that's not more than three months of work. EU is the largest importer of leather products and shoes from India. It is expected that beginning Fall Winter 20/21 season, there is a ray of hope for revival of the leather and leather products Industry globally.

"The Indian Leather and Leather Products Industry has had an annual turnover over US$ 5.7 billion and the pandemic has brought a loss of US$ 1 billion to the Indian Leather and Leather Products Industry" Revival of the Industry will be the priority.
INDIA and the USA: With the current socio-political situation, many American brands/buyers are shifting base to India. Recently, a major German shoe brand has also shifted base from China to Agra in India. This also gives some good hope.

INDIAN CONSUMER: Malls, Theatres, Restaurants remain closed as of date. It would take at least another two/three months for these to open. The Indian consumer (the middle class consumer) has not spent any money on fashion/clothing/footwear other than food in the last two months. It is expected that such consumers would be attracted to buying brands if made available on discount sale.

ONLINE: Meanwhile, e-commerce has opened up and the Indian consumer is quite fond of buying online.

DESPERATE SITUATION: There are some very sad situations as well. That of the migrant workers who are desirous to get back to their homes.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT: The Indian Government is working on war footing to bring the situation under control. Cooperation of the common man is important. All that the government asks is: wash your hands with soap and water frequently, wear face masks and maintain social distancing. Let us follow this religiously. This will be the NEW NORMAL!

Flight services have resumed today and have taken to the skies.

Let us all at FASHION TREND POOL reach out with our trends & services.

Niek Jansen Holland/Belgium

In Holland the shops were allowed to stay open, but people were not allowed to go out into the streets! They could only go out to buy groceries. Therefore, the small shops, which are on the way between the bakery and the supermarket, could profit a little.

So far, the rule is: the higher the rents/ the more luxury, the less turnover.

As long as there is still much uncertainty, the desire to buy will suffer.

Therefore, better sales of commodities and comfort. Sport remains difficult, as do accessories and bags. Lingerie and socks are good, however.

Regional shopping. Better sales in smaller towns. Big cities have difficulties.

Online shoppers are talking about sales growth of 30 - 40 %, but that doesn't save total sales.

Frank D'Arrigo reports from Italy and Switzerland

First Italy: here the shops have been open again for 1 week. There is a strong movement to be felt. People are crowding out and into the bars as if nothing had happened.

But it's difficult in retail. Rinacente in Milan is already starting with sales. Here too, the luxury brands will be among the biggest losers.

Good sales with children’s and youth fashion = demand!
Switzerland:
Shops here have been open for two weeks. Partially great satisfaction! Especially the smaller shops with personal customer contacts are also successful. Their customer loyalty pays off. The shops near the border are also very satisfied. Your customers cannot cross the border into Germany at the moment, so they buy locally! Among the winners are also comfort and children’s shoe suppliers. Bags very difficult!

The discussion was moderated by Mrs Marga Indra Heide, FASHION TREND POOL (www.fashion-trend-pool.com)

CONCLUSION:
Everything takes time! We are still far from normality. But we are trying to think positively ahead!