

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI

Action for good
Governance &
Networking in
India

AGNI

Editorial

The Third Wave Of The Pandemic Is On

Mumbai reported 21,581 cases in December 2021 as against 6,827 cases in November 2021, which means tally has surged over 50%.

Civic and health officials have emphasised that the third wave of the pandemic has started and urged Mumbaikars to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour to avoid transmission of the virus. This is basically because people, including politicians, don't follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

The doubling of the virus in Mumbai suggests that the virus strain is Omicron. Dr. Shashank Joshi of the Covid task force said "We can see that it is a mild disease and there is low hospitalisation and most are being treated at home. People must not panic but exercise caution. It is best to avoid gatherings and events such as weddings and parties. But Mumbaikars should strictly follow Covid appropriate behavior!"



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MMJ

STOP PRESS

AGNI Founder Trustee, Convenor Gerson daCunha passes away



Mr. Gerson daCunha, founder trustee and ex-Convenor AGNI, suddenly passed away on 7th January 2022 leaving us all in AGNI orphaned. He was truly the sheet anchor of AGNI,

from its inception till his own passing away says D. M. Sukthankar, our former Patron & Chairman.



Gerson da Cunha
1929-2022

In memory of our Gentle Guide who opened paths for us to explore, the Helper who smoothly resolved issues, the Passionate Upholder of Mumbai's rights.

"Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time."

-Longfellow

The AGNI Family.

Dear Gerson
Let your love and blessings be with us,
your children,
always.
Let us walk on the path you laid down for us.



AGNI Family

The February 2022 issue of Mumbai Meri Jaan will be fully dedicated to Gerson to revive his pleasant memories and to recall his contribution to AGNI of which he was one of the principal founders.

Request all Trustees and Coordinators as well as his friends to write and express their thoughts to mmj.agni@gmail.com. - Ed.

MMJ



The Memorial Mass was graced by HH Cardinal Gracias is at the Holy Name Cathedral. Our A Ward Coordinator Jennifer Shetty represented AGNI family at the memorial mass.

MMJ



For COVID-19 Bed And Ambulance Requirement Contact Your Ward War Room

WARD	WAR ROOM NUMBER	WARD	WAR ROOM NUMBER
A	022-22700007	P South	022-28780008 / 7304776098
B	022 - 2375 9023 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 9820855620	P North	022-28440001 / 69600000
C	022-22197331	R South	022 28054788 / 8828495740
D	022-23835004 / 8879713135	R North	022-28947350 / 8369324810
E	022-23797901	R Central	022 -28947360 / 9920089097 / 8591344976
F South	022-24177507 / 8657792809	L	7678061274 / 7304883359 / 7710870510
F North	022 24011380 / 8879150447 / 8879148203	M East	022-25526301
G South	02224219515 / 7208764360	M West	022 - 25284000 / 8591332421
G North	022 24210441 / 8291163739	N	022 - 21010201 / 7208543717
H East	022-26635400	S	022-25954000/9004869668/ 9004869830
H West	022-26440121	T	022-25694000/8591335822
K East	022-26847000		
K West	022 - 26208388 / 8591388243		

*Numbers updated as on 31st December 2021

Ban loudspeakers at religious places

M K Pande, Chairman, Symphony CHS

Noise pollution is an invisible danger and impacts millions of people on a daily basis.

Noise pollution is due to the extreme noise of the industrial

sector, transport, loudspeakers, etc., which adversely affect human health causing severe headaches, migraine, mental imbalance, nervous breakdowns, **contd. on Page 4**

Wadala Sports IPL

 Anil Kumar Jain, Wadala (West) Citizens' Forum

The Wadala Sports IPL successfully organized its 3rd edition of Sports Events on Sunday the December 19th, 2021, at St Joseph's

spectators. Indeed, it was highly satisfying to see the joy and excitement of



High School, Wadala West.

We, the organizers, are overwhelmed by the response and the whole-

the people.

Apart from 8 cricket teams, a new feature of the event was the introduction of football with four teams. There were more viewers who were completely enraptured by the football teams than we had expected. We shall, if possible, strive to increase the teams of both cricket and football for wider participation in future



hearted participation of all the participants and the

episodes.

The food counters were greatly appreciated and a variety of refreshments were kept for free for all players and viewers. Most people at the event seemed to enjoy the sports extravaganza.

The Winners and Runner-ups were awarded trophies along with trophies for individual participants as well.

We thank all the participants and their families and friends for conducting the event in a spirit of true sportsmanship. We also thank our tournament sponsors Suvidha and M Realty as well as other sponsors. **MMJ**

Vaccination effort by L ward

 Nutan Bhalla

In the ongoing pandemic, vaccination centres have again assumed centre stage in the struggle against Covid 19.

The residents of Raheja Vihar, Chandivali, too felt the need

period between 10:0am and 3:00 pm for their vaccinations. Both online and offline appointments were permitted at the centre.

Along with help from the



for a vaccination centre in the area. With the efforts of Advocate Jayprakash Shetty, the Raheja Vihar Societies Association and recommendations from the local MLA Shri Dilip Lande, the vaccination centre was launched on July 13th 2021 at the BMC training institute, Raheja Vihar, Chandivali. Free Covishield vaccination was administered and as a special incentive, young people 18 years and above were allotted a special

MLA's office, the Raheja Vihar Societies Association with volunteers reached out to residents of neighbouring societies, offices and slums in close proximity to the centre.

As vaccination numbers go up and L ward figures cross 5,18,000, residents of Raheja Vihar, Chandivali are proud of the role they played in warding off the pandemic.

Nutan Bhalla is AGNI's Coordinator in L ward.

MMJ

Linking Aadhaar and voters' ID will make changing address easy

The option of linking Voters' ID with Aadhaar is a path breaking reform that will enhance transparency, as well as convenience in the election process, making change of address and verification simpler and faster.

Enabling easier change of address will allow people to register in a new location and participate in elections, while also weeding out multiple registrations, said former UIDAI chief and former finance secretary, Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

"Even though linking is voluntary, I am sure that given the sheer convenience, more and more voters will opt for linkage of

Aadhaar with their voter I-cards and take advantage of the facility. Just like people today voluntarily offer their Aadhaar for opening bank accounts, mobile phone connection and vaccination," Pandey said.

The linking option will be global first as no other country has such a data base of biometric identities. There are provisions in the Aadhaar Act and the EC system to maintain the integrity, security and privacy of the data. Since the verification is controlled by the Aadhaar system, the security will be higher as so far there is no breach of data held in UIDAI servers. **MMJ**

Maharashtra Bandh: Bombay High Court asks State, political parties, to file reply in plea seeking compensation for citizenry

The Bombay High Court directed the state and the concerned political parties to file their replies to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a former police chief and other prominent citizen against what they term as a state sponsored bandh called recently in Maharashtra.

"Although we quite appreciate the concern expressed by the petitioners, we wonder whether directions from the Court to political parties to refrain from calling bandhs will have any effect on them or not," said a bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Dutta and Justice M S Karnik after hearing senior counsel RD Soni for the petitioners.

The HC will hear the matter next on February 14 2022.

Claiming that the one-day bandh called on October 11 across Maharashtra was "thoughtlessly imposed", the PIL filed by ex-Mumbai police chief Julio Reberio, 92, D. M. Sukthankar 89, former Chief Secretary, Maharashtra and BMC Commissioner, Gerson daCunha 92, Senior Activist, and Cyrus Guzdar, 76 Activist, seeks an order to direct three political parties—the Shiv Sena, the Indian National Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party(NCP)—forming part of Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to pay Rs. 3000 crore as "exemplary damages or compensation" to the Central and State governments and to

the affected citizens, through a Bandh Loss Compensation Fund.

The bench asked Soni, "who is going to identify how much and who is to be paid," and Soni said the thrust of the PIL is to set up a bandh compensation fund. The counsel said, "this is an aggravated form of government sponsored bandh" as it was supported by the present government and ministers had made statements.

Calling this bandh unique and unprecedented, the plea states that the "past experience over the last several years indicates that a bandh is usually called for and enforced by a political party or a group which is in the opposition" however, this bandh was "unique and unprecedented" as it was called by the parties of the ruling coalition.

This was done despite knowing that the Supreme Court had held such bandhs "unconstitutional and hence illegal". Soni said, "cognizance ought to be taken of the serious turn of events where State in Cabinet meeting supported the bandh. It will lead to anarchy else."

The bench in its order noted the "concern expressed by senior citizens to calling of a bandh by a party in power."

Soni cited a 2004 HC order where political parties at whose behest a bandh call was given were directed to be suitably penalized via a compensation amount to be paid by them. **MMJ**

An appeal for donations

AGNI is a movement managed and run by volunteers. Being a voluntary movement, AGNI needs the support and contribution of every citizen to continue its work. Citizens are invited to contribute their indispensable ideas, time, effort and financial support. Send Cheque / DD in favour of "AGNI" to any of our Ward Coordinators as listed on Page 4 or to AGNI Office: Chadha

Bldg, 1st Floor, Plot no. 95, Wadala (West), Mumbai 400 031
Bank Details for donations transferred electronically:

Account Name: AGNI,
SB A/c No.: 000710210000005
Bank of India, Breach Candy Branch, Mumbai 400 026.
NEFT/IFSC: BKID0000007

AGNI is a Charitable Trust. Donations are eligible for exemption under 80G of the Income Tax Act. **MMJ**

Preparing for the BMC Elections 2022

Zahida Banatwala, AGNI Trustee

We are so consumed with COVID that all the other important issues have been put on the back burner. While most other issues can be handled sooner or later, what we cannot ignore are the imminent Corporation Elections.

Now is the time to observe the work done by your Councillor in the last 5 years. Would you or your fellow residents like to see this Councillor re-elected? Are all or some of the chronic problems of your area being addressed? What is your wish list?

It would be a good idea to talk to the citizens of the municipal ward you reside and to set certain parameters of the candidate you would like to see elected. For instance, candidates with a criminal background should be given a wide berth. The educational background and clean antecedents should be a priority. If the candidate is looking to get re-elected, then

his/her work should be a prime indicator of his eligibility. The foremost duty of residents is to come out in large numbers and vote. Residents must check online on the election commission's website if their names are on the electoral rolls.

Get members of your society to go together to the polling booth. Please understand the progress of your ward in the next five years is dependent on the choice you make. If possible, consider organizing a Meet Your Candidate meeting, getting all prospective candidates together on a single platform. Listening to their views and how they propose to serve the people is necessary for their election to these posts. While we expect a lot from elected representatives, we have a role too. Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin and you cannot expect to enjoy one without fulfilling the other.

MMJ

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Ban loudspeakers at religious places

contd. from Page 1 heart diseases, annoyance, sleep disturbance, negative effects on the cardiovascular and metabolic system, as well as cognitive impairment in children.

Many countries are taking a variety of measures to address noise pollution. For instance, installing low noise asphalt on roads, using quiet tyres in public transport vehicles, establishing more infrastructure for electric cars in cities, promoting walking, cycling, pedestrianisation of streets, etc.

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have specified "Permissible decibel limits in residential areas, during daytime 55 dB (A) and night time 45 dB". Noise is measured in decibels or dB. "Night time" means the period between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

Rules provide restrictions on the use of loud speakers / public address system and sound producing instruments.-

- 1 A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority.
- 2 A loud speaker or a public address system or any sound producing instrument or a musical instrument or a sound amplifier shall not be used at night time except in closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, banquet halls or during a public emergency.
- 3 Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule 2, the State Government may subject to such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address system and the like during night hours (between 10.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding fifteen days in all during a calendar year. The concerned State Government shall generally specify in advance, the number and particulars of the days on

which such exemption would be operative.

4 The noise level at the boundary of the public place, where loudspeaker or public address system or any other noise source is being used shall not exceed 10 dB (A) above the ambient noise standards for the area or 75 dB (A) whichever is lower;

5 The peripheral noise level of a privately owned sound system or a sound producing instrument shall not, at the boundary of the private place, exceed by more than 5 dB (A) the ambient noise standards specified for the area in which it is used.

Rules also specify Silence Zone as an area comprising not less than 100 metres around Hospitals, Educational institutions, Courts, Religious Places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.

It is observed that loudspeakers have been installed at temples and mosques and are used daily right round the year. This results in noise pollution and mental disturbance to people at all hours of the day and night.

People of all religions have been praying for thousands of years prior to the advent of loudspeakers. Hence there should be a total ban on the use of loudspeakers at religious places and permissions, if given, should be cancelled.

M K Pande is an AGNI volunteer from L ward

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A MASK is better than a ventilator. HOME is better than ICU. PREVENTION is better than treatment. It's not curfew. It's CARE FOR U.

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To volunteer in AGNI or to form Advanced Locality Management (ALM) contact your respective Ward Coordinators below

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