

Mumbai Meri Jaan



Forward This To All - And All Forward - Together



COVID-19 BRINGS FORTH BRAVE NGOS

One silver lining of the lockdown has been that the city has found many good Samaritans. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and individuals have played an important role in extending a helping hand to migrant workers. MMJ has reported some of them in its issues including the current one.

The Supreme Court has also applauded the NGOs. "NGOs coming forward to help the migrant workers and to fight the pandemic and extend help by providing food, water and transportation at their cost deserves all appreciation," observed a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, S K Kaul and MRShah.

"Although it is the responsibility and duty of the States and Union Territories to take care of all the needs of migrant labourers, in this difficult time NGOs and individuals have also contributed and played an important role in extending a helping hand to the migrants. Society as a whole was moved by the miseries and difficulties of migrant labourers and it exhibited its passion and devotion by way of individuals," the bench added.

MMJ

IMPORTANT NOTE
Due to National Lockdown, there will be no Print Edition of Mumbai Meri Jaan July 2020 issue, only a NET Edition



Mumbai ke Liye, Kucchh bhi Karega

Shishir Joshi, CEO & Founder, Project Mumbai

Covid19 was first detected in Mumbai in the 2nd week of March, 2020 and Mumbai went into a lockdown on March 23. However, Project Mumbai was in action mode from March 17 as we were invited to be a part of the Municipal Commissioner's Task Force. We therefore became familiar with the State's responses and gaps that were emerging.

In the early days, there was only Kasturba Hospital for Covid positives. The asymptomatic patients were 'requested' to remain home quarantined. The needs of these patients and others affected by this crisis motivated us to organise our relief activities and map out our strategies to help various sections of society. We organized ourselves to provide the following relief measures: Groceries to those medically

quarantined

Provided groceries in pre-packaged kits and also donated to those who could not afford them.

Senior Citizens /Physically Disabled living alone

Provided cooked food to over 10,000 individuals and families. Launched a helpline for medicines, groceries and vegetables for the physically disabled. Initiated a 'buddy system' for seniors.

Army of Volunteers

Over 2,000 Good Samaritans mapped by name, number and geography.

Mental Health Helplines

Launched a comprehensive mental wellness helpline with over 50 trained counsellors attending to calls in 7 languages.

Another helpline for families who have children or members with special **contd. on Page 4**

Fight, Secure and Protect

Sucheta Dalal, Founder-Trustee, Moneylife Foundation

Moneylife foundation organised life-savings drugs, filed a PIL to regulate N95 mask prices and supplied protective gear to hospitals as it moved to the frontline in the war against the coronavirus. The protective gear as well as the equipment to deal with the treatment and disposal continues to be scarce. A worrying development is that key drugs for treating Covid 19, such as Tocilizumab, Remdesivir, Favipiravir are expensive and in short supply.

It is only through the support of our donors that we have been able to sustain a relief effort for two straight months. With the rising

number of deaths, our focus in the past couple of weeks has been on getting body bags, oxygen masks with reservoir bags and disposable bedsheets.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for Pricing Regulation

Our litigation against profiteering on the price of N 95 masks, an essential protection, is being heard by the Bombay High Court. Partnering with social activist Anjali Damania, founder of the Voice of Indian Tax Payers, we filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court. Senior Counsel, Mihir Desai and his team and Advocate Mihir Joshi have done a fantastic job of making our case before the court.

Tocilizumab for Sion Hospital

Mitigating distress of migrant workers

Pamela Cheema

The stringent lockdown to curb the devastating Coronavirus and the resultant



Bhupendra Mishra, Resilient Foundation

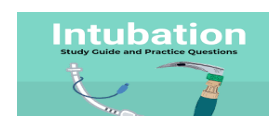
heart-wrenching exodus of migrant labour to their distant villages in the severe heat brought in many saviours from the cold who served them with unparalleled devotion. Thirty-year-old Bhupendra Mishra is one such individual who with his band of enthusiastic volunteers strove to mitigate the distress of the workers. Mishra who lives in Boisar, Palghar, **contd. on Page 3**

through Cipla Foundation

Doctors at Sion Hospital told us how 23 serious, Covid patients with aggressive respiratory symptoms had recovered by administering 400 mg of Tocilizumab, a drug which costs over Rs. 40,000 a vial. The hospital asked if we could donate some vials of the drug. Our trustee, Walter Vieira, connected us with Mr M Hamied and Cipla Foundation, who promptly agreed to donate 10 vials of 400mg of this drug.

Intubation Guides and Hand Sanitisers

Dr Dev Pahlajani, a former member of Sion Hospital, made the donation **contd. on Page 2**



Sustaining Communities in a Pandemic

 **Austin Nazareth**

Green Communities Foundation (GCF), a not-for-profit company, incorporated in 2017 by Kedar Sohoni, an IIT B 1993 and IIM L1996 alumnus, focuses on the sustainability of communities through the planned management of waste. Working mainly in Goregaon as well as in rural and urban areas around Mumbai, it has also sought to transform hearts and minds by reaching out to children studying in municipal



schools. Segregation, Composting and Recycling are the three mantras taught to these kids, who then practice it in their homes and neighbourhoods.

The ongoing Covid 19 pandemic pushed many people into cocoons. The lockdown, meant to arrest the spread of the virus, also brought Mumbai's zest for life to a standstill. The shutdown of public transport brought Mumbai to a grinding halt. All of a sudden, the daily wage earners in particular, and their families, faced hunger. A city that never allows anyone to sleep on a hungry stomach, now had millions who would do so and their plight became more and more visible.

Kedar and his team at GCF could not stand on the sidelines as mute spectators. After all, sustainability was for the well-being of people. Poor communities need food to sustain their bodies and be healthy, an essential requirement to face the onslaught of the coronavirus. Weak and desperate people would become both victims and carriers of Covid 19. A decision was taken, Kedar and his team would help as many people as they could.



GCF has provided till date, 3,600 relief kits sufficient for 21 days, to needy families residing across North Mumbai in Goregaon East, Goregaon West, Andheri East, Malwani and Santa Cruz. GCF has also partnered with Akshaya Patra to help create 12,300 relief packages. It was distributed through Akshaya Patra's network throughout Mumbai.

GCF also decided on an effort to employ tailors to make face shields. This effort which resulted in making over 500 face masks and shields brought helped these tailors as they learnt of its distribution to ICICI Bank, Saraswat Bank, RBL Bank and others.

GCF has thus tried to help in these desperate times till Mumbai springs with renewed vigour and strength. **MMJ**

Bandra helps citizens in Cyclone Nisarg

 **Shyama Kulkarni**

In preparation for Cyclone Nisarg, St Stanislaus School and Fr Agnel Ashram readied accommodation for slum dwellers living on the rocks at Bandstand Bandra. The Bombay Catholic Sabha St. Andrews Unit team met with the citizens of Chimbai to request



them to evacuate from their premises due to fearful impact of the cyclone and its aftermath.

Thanks to Mr. Parag Masurkar (Dy. Municipal Commissioner) zone 3, Mr. Vinayak Visapute (Asst. Commissioner) H/west



Fight, Secure and Protect

contd. from Page 1 specifically for Sion hospital. Dr Neela Patwardhan informed us of the urgent requirement of intubation guides used during surgeries where tracheal airway passages have become difficult to manage and there is a failure to ventilate or oxygenate. We delivered eight intubation guides to the Department of Anesthesiology at Sion Hospital.

Another coordinated relief effort was in providing hand sanitizers through Dr Anajali Chhabria and her NGO Golden Citizens Trust to those requesting for it.

Kawach : A Cheaper Alternative to N95 masks

The scarcity of N95 masks and their high prices made us contact ETEX, an IIT-Delhi startup that has developed an affordable alternative mask called Kawach. It has a cloth surface and 90% filtration (as opposed to 95% with the N95 masks). On all other parameters it is as good or better than the N95 masks. We ordered 10,000 Kawach masks for hospitals and senior citizen organisations in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. There was some initial hesitation among hospitals, but many are coming back to us with



excellent feedback.

Reusable Rubber Gloves

Prices had almost doubled since our initial enquiries for reusable gloves. We then received a mail from Pulkit of Prime World, offering us donations of reusable rubber gloves. We collected and distributed the gloves to hospitals such as Sion, Cama & Albless hospitals, JJ Hospital, K B Bhabha, Ackworth Leprosy and Rajawadi hospitals and even to a community kitchen in Govandi.

Water Storage Tanks

We had purchased water storage tanks for the migrant workers' relief camp established by Civil Defence. The camp is now disbanded and we donated these water tanks to Godad Palghar Hospital, M. A. Poddar Hospital and Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Andheri.

Other Essentials

We have donated infrared thermometers, coveralls and nitrile gloves to hospitals in Mumbai and also to a community kitchen in Govandi and Tata's Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

We are now focused on more specific and urgent requirements from hospitals. We are also hoping for a positive ruling on our PIL and a price cap on N95 masks. **MMJ**

BMC'S CHASE THE PATIENT POLICY

 **Amey Ghole, Chairman, BMC Health Committee & Corporator-178**

The war rooms of MCGM have been decentralised for covid bed allotment at all the 24 Wards from June 8th. The process starts at 8am sharp & finishes by 12 noon. We have named it CHASE THE PATIENT POLICY as conceived by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Udhav Thackeray, for BMC.

The covid positive patient is



properly counselled and then our medical teams visits the patient at his residence, examine him and allot the bed/hospital before leaving the patient's premises.

10 Ambulances and 10 medical teams are parked at each Ward War room 24 X 7. The load on the Central Control Room 1916 has reduced by 80% now and in few days, 1916 will have no role left in bed allotment.

Now the patient does not need to visit hospitals for beds. Team BMC is fully geared up to effectively confront Covid-19 **MMJ**



ward, Mr. Jaweed (Executive Engineer), Mr. Shishir Khokale (sub Engineer) H/west, Asif Zakaria, Corporator and St. Andrews for excellent arrangements for protection from the cyclone. **MMJ**

Mitigating distress of migrant workers

contd. from Page 1 founded his NGO, Resilient Foundation, which specialises in disaster management, on March 31, 2018.

A Zoology graduate who has done several courses in disaster management, Mishra, the Founder and President of the Resilient Foundation, was awarded the Indira Gandhi National Award for the National Service Scheme in 2012.

The Resilient Foundation participated energetically in 'Jeevan Rath', an initiative spawned in mid-April by Yusuf Kabir of UNICEF who looks after water and sanitation projects in Maharashtra. The movement



was sparked off by the exodus of migrant workers and Jeevan Rath was supported vigorously among others by Sir Ness Wadia Foundation, YUVA, The Glenmark Foundation, Hungry Wheels, Rotary Club of Bombay, The FICCI Ladies Association, Mumbai, Project Mumbai, YMCA Mumbai, Khaana Chahiye, etc as well as generous individual philanthropists.

Mishra recalls that "when the lockdown was initiated one of the first requests we got was from Kalyan. Our volunteers who were on ground got wind of the distress of the workers and with our own funds we provided relief for them. We helped out people in Thane, Pune and in Mumbai, in the slum belts of Andheri and Kandivali."

As a paucity of funds loomed on the horizon, Resilient Foundation began crowdfunding and within 15 days the resourceful NGO collected Rs 4 lakh in cash and

Covid 19 and Monsoon 2020

Austin Nazareth

This pandemic which has brought our known way of living to a standstill, has also evoked a desire in each one of us to do more for those who have fallen by the wayside. Giving of food packets and ration kits to hundreds does make a difference as also providing of face masks and shields to health care workers.

What should we do that will spark a change in our neighbourhoods, that will fight the virus street by street and house by house. The Monsoon will bring in its wake other seasonal illnesses. It is feared that the monsoon will also be more conducive to the spread of Covid 19 and we may see an increase in cases/deaths.


Our first line of defense has always been our family physician. And this is where we need to bring our focus. We need to become their shield. We need to reach out to all the general practitioners in our **Contd. on page 4**

Rs 15 lakh in kind! With more individuals responding to it, the NGO ceased crowdfunding and in mid-April began its collaboration with the UNICEF sponsored Jeevan Rath. Yusuf Kabir of UNICEF initiated a whatsapp group with volunteers and NGOs, began energetic brainstorming and Jeevan Rath was born. Resilient Foundation put its volunteers on ground to aid Jeevan Rath and they worked tirelessly through a scorching summer to aid the migrant workers.

Mishra believes that "return migration will be the next phase in which we will be involved. We would also like to assist in tackling Covid 19 and the victims of the Nisarg Cyclone. The interiors of Raigad have been ravaged and there are many places where help has not yet reached and we are now systematically drawing up plans to aid these hapless people."

Pamela Cheema is AGNI's co-ordinator in S ward.

MMJ

कोरोना  **Sunanda Nadkarni** an 85-year-old bedridden lady, written on her sick bed (see her handwriting Photo)

एक तरफ से कोई चलिआते आया,
भागो भागो प्राणघातक कोरोना आया।।
तो दुसरी तरफसे कोई चलिआते आया,
डरोना घरमें बैठठकर सोचना कोरोना क्यों आया।।
तब मैंने घरमें बैठकर सोचना शुरू किया।।
तब मेरे सामने एक बड़ा प्रश्नचिन्ह आया।।
फरि थोडीही देर में मुझे याद आया।।
जो भगवान श्रीकृष्ण ने गीता में अर्जुन को समझाया।।
परमात्मा ने मानव और प्रकृतिको एकही समय उत्पन्न किया।।
और परस्पर सहयोग से आनंदी जीवन बतानेका आदेश दिया।।
सत्ययुग से आजतक प्रकृतिनै नसिवार्थ भाव से मानव को सहयोग दिया।।
लेकिन मानव ने स्वार्थी बनकर प्रकृतिको बहुत रुलाया।।
प्रकृतिनै भूकंप, सुनामी, बाढ़ वगैरेसे अपना प्रकोप दर्शाया।।
लेकिन मानवने इन संकेतोंसे बोध नहीं लिया।।
मानव भूमि, जल और वायु को दूषित करता चला गया।।
और प्रकृतिको कोरोना जैसे अघोर शस्त्र लाने को मजबूर किया।।
अब नश्चिती रूपसे एक बात मेरे समझ में आई है।।
मानव और प्रकृतिदोनों एक दुजेपर निर्भर हैं।।
जैसे मानव का स्वास्थ्य प्रकृतिपर निर्भर है।।
उसीतरह प्रकृति का स्वास्थ्य मानवकी ज़िम्मेदारी है।।
इसलिए अभी मैं शपथ लुंगा और दूसरों को भी कहूंगा।।
मैं भूमि, जल और वायु को कभी दूषित नहीं करूंगा।।
जबतक प्रकृति का स्वास्थ्य ठीक होगा।।
मानव नश्चिती रूपसे स्वस्थ रहेगा।।

English Translation:

Someone came shouting from one side, run run deadly corona has come.

So someone from the other side came screaming, dont be scared, sit at home and think why did the corona come

Then when I started sitting at home and thinking, a big question mark came in front of me.

Then I remembered in somewhile what Lord Krishna had explained to Arjuna in the Gita.

God created man and nature all at once.

And ordered to live a happy life through mutual cooperation.

From Satyuga till today, nature has selflessly supported human beings.

But man selfishly made nature cry a lot.

Nature showed its outbreak through earthquakes, tsunamis, floods.

But humans have not understood these signs.

Humans went on contaminating the land, water and air.

And forced nature to bring a dangerous weapon like Corona.

Now I understand one thing

Both human and nature are dependent on each other.

Just as human health is dependent on nature, the health of nature is human responsibility. Therefore, I will take an oath n also tell others "

I'll never pollute land water and air". As long as the health of nature is good, human will definitely be healthy.

MMJ

A VERY BIG THANK YOU
for Donations received

in the month of June 2020:
Mr.Gerson daCunha Rs.50,000/=

AGNI donates 1. Rs.50,000/= to Project Mumbai towards Protective gears for the front line Warriors and 2. On recommendation of Donor, Shyama Kulkarni, Rs.10,000/= to the widow of Constable Hate of Bandra Police Station who died due to Covid.

Mumbai ke Liye, Kucchh bhi Karega

contd. from Page 1 needs with over 30 trained therapists.

Food to doctors

Assisting the government in providing food for our doctors, as many canteen workers had left. We serve three meals a day to over 1700 doctors from J J Hospital, Cama, Cooper, Sion hospitals, Navi Mumbai hospitals, KEM hospital doctors and the staff of the Covid Control Room in Mantralaya, Headquarters of Maharashtra Government.

Food for the Homeless

Our Khaana Chahiye initiative, started on March 29, serves cooked meals to over 70,000 persons every day. The total meals provided to people touched 37 lakhs.

Bananas for every child

We launched an initiative to provide bananas to every child of a homeless person and migrant workers and over 4000 bananas were supplied every day.

Foodgrains for the needy

Under our 'RATION CHAHIYE' initiative, identified small community pockets needing aid and provided ration kits to over 50,000.

Mental Health toll free helpline

First in India by any state, launched on April 19 with 75 Counsellors. We receive an average of 350 calls daily.

Personal Protection Kits (PPE)

Donated two lakh PPE kits to Mumbai and another 10,000 PPE kits to Mumbai Police. Also distributed over 200 PPE kits to the CISF at the airports.

Vanity Vans for female police personnel

Mission Suraksha was launched in partnership with the Film Producers Guild and 14 vans were provided. The female police were also given biscuits, sanitizers and sanitary pads.

MCGM Administrative Wards

We took responsibility for 6 out of the 24 wards of Mumbai city to support MCGM in grocery, food grains and vegetable distribution.

Victims of domestic abuse

On May 6, launched a helpline for victims of domestic violence.

Homeward bound migrant citizens

Since May we have been



providing food and water to 45,000 migrants travelling by train and another 20,000 by road every day. Also organised buses for them, and even a train to Tamil Nadu.

One Million Meals mission

We launched this mission so that no migrant should return home on an empty stomach.

Non-Covid Hospital Dashboard for hospitals

A live dashboard is now available for non Covid treatment.

We now wish to provide free ambulance services for patients. We have also delivered two lakh face masks and two ambulances for Mumbai Police for a month.

We have also presented 'A Way Forward' plan to the Maharashtra government.

Project Mumbai reflects the Spirit of Mumbai — Mumbai ke liye kuchh bhi karega. Because We Care.

MMJ

Covid 19 and Monsoon 2020

Contd. from Page 3 neighbourhoods by providing disinfectants like Suthol or Dettol, sanitizers, masks, generic medicines, vitamin supplements, etc. The doctor can give it to patients who may not be able to afford these additional costs.

Such items purchased from a wholesaler or directly from a company will be cheaper. There are always left over medicines which volunteers can collect and hand over. Packaged water, cooked meals, etc. are always needed. Can you motivate residents to provide some bottles of home filtered water and small meal packets for the jobless and the destitute?

Each one of us needs to protect our local doctors and essential workers with a shield. As you do so, please communicate through social media on how you are making a difference. This will motivate many more to become shields around their doctors, nurses, teachers, and other essential workers.

Let's be ready, lest we are found wanting in this battle of epidemic proportions.

MMJ

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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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