

Mumbai Meri Jaan



Forward This To All - And All Forward - Together

A special supplement on details of the success of BMC's MUMBAI MODEL fight COVID-19, by Suchita Dalal of MoneyLife is issued on Page 5 & 6

Editorial

Prediction – India to be 97% free of corona – LET's PRAY TO BE TRUE!

Good News: Hope this becomes true.

As per Singapore University survey / research based on 131 countries. India will be 97% free of corona from 18th June. From 8th December entire world will be free of Corona. Their predictions about Italy and Spain have matched exactly, hence hope further it strengthens into confidence and assurance for better healthy future. So relax guys' happy times are coming shortly. 🙌🙌🙌

Covid Predictions based on SUTRA model
<https://www.sutra-india.in/>



SUTRA - COVID India Predictions
Check out COVID predictions for India and various states and district
www.sutra-india.in

Surprisingly accurate! Let's hope it remains so hereafter! Keep your fingers crossed!

Data model by IIT Kanpur.

BUT....



Let's not be complacent, but continue to follow the Covid SOP behavior for everyone's safety, while hoping for the prediction to be true.

MMJ



White Alert

Shyama Kulkarni
AGNI Trustee

We fought for Temples
We fought for Masjids
We fought for Statues
But we didn't fight for Hospitals
Everything is closed but Hospitals...!!

We fought for Pandits
We fought for Maulvis
We fought for Godmen
But we never fought for

Doctors
None are rescuing us but Doctors...!!
We fought for culture
We fought for Traditions
We fought for Caste
We fought for Religion
But never fought for Science
And Science seems to be the only savior...!!

Centre to mobilise 1 lakh CSOs/NGOs for help fight against Covid

Surojit Gupta

The centre is planning to mobilise more than one lakh civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs across the country to fight the Covid-19 surge and has asked the states to enlist their participation. The move has been prompted by the stellar role played by them in the first wave last year in combating the spread of the virus.

Niti Aayog, the government's think tank, has written to Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs and asked them to ask district magistrates to mobilise all CSOs to help in ensuring Covid-appropriate behavior, use of masks, physical distancing as well as help in spreading the message of vaccination.

"Community participation is the key. Every village, panchayat, and district should collaborate with civil society organisations to fight the virus," said Amitabh Kant, Niti Aayog CEO, who heads one of the empowered groups. In his letter he says, CSOs have contributed immensely by supplying food to the needy, distributing masks, creating awareness, providing

healthcare facilities, developing communication materials and their engagement would definitely add value to government efforts.

The CSOs and NGOs have carried out a number of activities and the need to mobilise them comes against PM Modi's emphasis to all stakeholders for micro containment zones which would help to stop the spread of the infection. The empowered group would like the local administrations to identify hotspots and depute volunteers with specific focus on the elderly, people with disabilities, Children and other vulnerable groups.

Another key initiative that CSOs and NGOs have been asked to take up is sensitizing the population about the need to use masks even if vaccination has been done. Kant also urged CSOs and NGOs to use the toolkit on the mask campaign to spread awareness vigorously.

"Masks are social vaccines. Mask up and save the world," Kant added.

MMJ

STOP PRESS

BMC Elections 2022

The state election commission (SEC) has given its nod to the BMC to hold the civic polls in February 2022 and start preparing for the same keeping in mind Covid-19 protocols.

As no new Contd on page 4

And last but not the least
We fought for Leaders
We fought for Parties
We fought for Ideologies
But we never fought for Health and Education...!!
LET'S JOIN HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN THEIR WAR FOR DIGNITY!



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Cyclone tauktae – hits and misses

👉 Zahida Banatwala

The city of Mumbai witnessed one of the worst experiences when the Cyclone Tauktae hit its shores on 17th May 2021. There are disaster management cells and plans but, one can never really be prepared. With winds howling at the speed of 114 kmph and waves rising a meter and a half



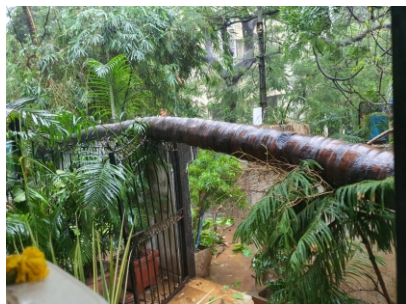
high all hell was let loose. In 12 hours the city received 214mm of unseasonal rain.

In Andheri K West constituency, trees were falling like nine pins. The high tide coupled with very heavy rain and the danger of the city flooding had the BMC, Fire Brigade and the Police on their toes. With Covid 19 still having a grip on the citizens this was the last calamity one wished to witness. The following day at noon I had to go to Bandra, as I was driving through from Juhu to the Reclamation, all I saw was devastation, cars lying under fallen trees, compound walls of societies broken chaos all around. Roofs of shops or homes just lying around the streets

As I travelled around, lane after lane was blocked with fallen trees, it was a heart breaking sight, I have grown up in Bandra, walked in the shade of these lanes as a child, I had a lump in my throat and silently mourned the death of these majestic trees which would have taken at least 50 years to grow. Before, BMC garden department now stands the



humongous task of lifting the trees cutting them and disposing the same responsibly. Elected representatives were seen personally supervising the clearing operation. The angry sea spewed out all the debris thrown into its belly along the promenades and the beaches of the city. Fortunately, Juhu beach did not witness too much of waste on its shores. It was a good 24 hours later that the winds settled and the city



started limping back to its normal pace.

In the midst, of all the disaster was a silver lining our Councillor of Ward 69 Ms. Renu Hansraj, who personally stood and had a huge Mango tree replanted. A deed that has been applauded by the residents of the ward.

Zahida Banatwala is the Ward Coordinator, K/W MMJ

Ritambhara Life Care Centre, Juhu

Our city gasped as patients and their families agonised over non availability of hospital beds as indeed the scarcity of life saving oxygen.

At the height of this raging Pandemic a seed was sown by the Councillor Renu Hansraj Ward 69 K West, Dr Jayant Barve along with Trustees of Ritambhara College Juhu, MLA Ameet Satam. The Assistant Municipal Commissioner Vishwas Mote went beyond the call of duty to facilitate a 25 bed

BKSD Marg (Govandi Station Road) ALM on Area Development Work

👉 Asis Thakur

BKSD Marg ALM contained spread of Corona Virus to ensure area is not declared as High Containment Zone by following restrictions imposed by Government. We arranged supply of vegetables, fruits, groceries in Society premises to put restriction on movement of residents. We got sanitizing



done, regular cleaning of roads, collection of wastes by BMC to maintain cleanliness.

We also organised Medical Camp and Covid Tests in B.E.S.T. Staff Quarters of Deonar Depot,



having 275 families, with the help of BMC to stop the spread of Corona affected cases.

Appreciating Doctors, Medical Staff of Shatabdi Hospital, Deonar we acknowledged their dedicated services provided to Covid patients

To stop installation of T.B. Unit in Shatabdi Hospital a joint meeting was organised with

the Chief T.B. Officer of MCGM and agreed that instead of T.B. Unit one O.P.D. for T.B. patients



will be installed with adequate precautions so that spreading of germs in residential places be minimised.



Due to follow up with the Garden Department a number of steps have been taken to improve greeneries and maintenance of Amarnath Patil



Udyan, an important Recreation Ground in M East Ward.

Despite lockdown and various restrictions, Contd. on Page 4

👉 Sandra Alex, Juhu



oxygen supported Covid Care Centre.

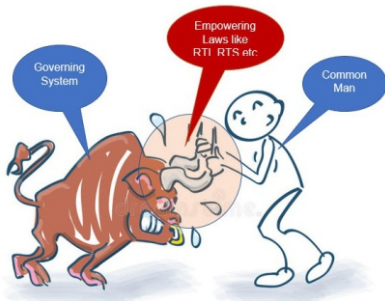
Having existing infrastructure in place the race was on to procure Oxygenators and oxygen cylinders.

The Universe conspired as classrooms converted to well ventilated wards demarcated for men and women.



A bly assisted by a team of dedicated Doctors, Nursing and Auxiliary Staff on duty

overseeing and monitoring the well-being of patients. Wholesome meals and basic medication are catered to free of cost as are the beds. The strains of light instrumental music waft Contd. on Page 4



Take the Bull by the Horns How to make the Governing System work for Citizens - 8

✍️ Shrikant Soman

New Era of Dynamic Satyagraha

Satyagraha literally means 'Insistence for Truth'. In popular conception it is strongly associated with the pre-independence movement when Mahatma Gandhi used it as a very potent tool against the British. Satyagraha is generally interpreted as a '**non-violent resistance**' to foreign unjust rule. In post-independence free India, this movement died its natural death as it has lost its relevance in the new ecosystem of self-rule. Today's youth want more dynamic and powerful action against the corruption system.

At AGNI (and also by many other similar minded NGOs like PRAJA, ADR and activists like Shailesh Gandhi, Bhaskar Prabhu, Gaurang Vora, SK Nangia, James John, Shyama Kulkarni, Rajkumar Sharma etc) we are ushering in a new era of **Assertive Citizens Action for Good Governance** by effectively using the various constitutional and legal empowering provisions in favour of the citizens. This movement is completely non-violent in the physical sense but it has the **power of the hard 'punch' to cause a body blow** (in a figurative sense) to the erring and non-performing Ministers and Civil Servants while remaining **within the framework of Constitution**. The high and mighty ensconced in their supposedly safe bureaucratic system have tumbled in front of the juggernaut of this movement. There is a classic example of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra being dethroned (Dec 2010) as a result of the dominoes effect initiated with the RTI query (by RTI activists Simpreet Singh and Yogacharya Anandji) in Adarsh

Housing Society matters.

We can call this movement '**Dynamic Satyagraha**'. Unlike its namesake in pre-independence India with non-violent means, this Dynamic Satyagraha '**causes legal violence**' in a figuratively speaking. Leaving aside its acquired Gandhian connotations, we redefine this term and get to its root meaning. We go by the literal meaning of the word 'Satyagraha', that is '**Insistence for Truth**'. In our context of post-independence India, it assumes a new significance as '**Insistence for Truth that is Good Governance**'. We do not use the methods of passive resistance like Rallies, Sit-In, (unjust) law breaking etc. We use the most powerful and **aggressive weapons** of '**Citizens Rights**' as given by the Constitution of India and various laws and regulations under it. It is a concerted and single pointed piercing thrust for ensuring that our government machinery functions as it was meant to be.

The most crucial factor limiting the exploitation of the full potential of these empowering legal provisions is a very low level of '**LITERACY**' of **Citizens Rights (LCR)**. The Indian literacy rate has phenomenally grown to 74% (2011 census) from 12% at the end of British rule in 1947. However, we still remain highly illiterate about the various provisions of Citizens Rights. The current literacy rate **LCR** in this respect may be just 5% of the population. There is a serious need to increase the awareness and knowledge base of Citizens Rights with the layman. At **AGNI** we are committed to this mission.

Shrikant Soman is the Ward Coordinator of R/N Ward.

MMJ

Redevelopment of Pali Market



Madhu Poplai, Secretary Pali Hill Residents Association

The Redevelopment of Pali Market located below the upmarket residential enclave of Pali Hill, had faced several road blocks before finally seeing the light of day. It is the most lucrative of the municipal market plots that had gone for redevelopment since 2005.

There are 53 vegetable, fruit and meat vendors and 10 fish vendors who were to be housed in the much delayed Pali Market redevelopment project.

All the vendors from Pali Market in Bandra have finally moved into the redeveloped market space. This relocation



of vendors came almost over a decade and a half after they had been sitting on the road as the market was being developed.

Vendors having shifted inside the market, has brought a much needed relief to the locals. The residents, the local politicians

Contd. on Page 4

An appeal for donations

A GNI 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.

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A VERY BIG THANK YOU for Donations received

in the month of May 2021:

Lara Balsara Vajifdar Rs.25,000/=

Arun Mehta Rs.20,000/=

Nayana Coulagi Rs. 15,000/=

Parvana Noorani Rs.15,000/=

Raj K. Sundaram Rs. 12,500/=

Meher Marfatia Rs.12,000/=

Ernest Fernandes Rs. 10,000/=

Vijay Menon Rs.10,000/=

Farrokh Mehta Rs.10,000/=

Pamela Cheema Rs. 5,000/=

Ajay Popat Rs. 5,000/=

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Rs.5,000/=

CA J. A. Shah Rs.2,000/=

Rajnikant Parmar Rs.500/=

Austin Nazaret Rs.500/=

Jennifer Shetty Rs.500/=

Ritambhara Life Care Centre, Juhu

Contd. from Page 2 through the wards cheering the patients.

The Citizens of Juhu opened their hearts and gave beyond measure to see this come to fruition. Every hurdle glided over each crease ironed out as perceived stumbling blocks mutated to stepping stones



with guidance from Dr Jayant Barve, supported by Mr Amitabh Bacchan and Mr. Anand Pandit.

Trustees Umesh Sanghvi and Apurva Patel ably assisted by their band of dedicated "Seven" left no stone unturned.

The Centre will administer to patients requiring oxygen. However, should the situation warrant an ICU or Ventilator, a tie up with peripheral hospitals will facilitate the transition.

Ritambhara Life Care Centre will indeed bring succour to Citizens in these troubled times.

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BKSD Marg ALM

Contd. from Page 2 BMC could carry out cleaning drains, repairing potholes, pruning tree branches, keeping street lights functional, stopping water pilferage, to avoid



flooding and other inconvenience through regular follow ups with the concerned authorities.

Finally, we extended support through contribution of funds to TRIPS Development & Research Foundation, Sunder Baugwadi, Deonar, a Women-initiated NGO and provided readymade food and ration kit to migrant workers, labourers and vulnerable population in Slum Areas of Mankhurd and Govandi Areas.

Asis Thakur is the Ward Coordinator M/East

MMJ

Redevelopment of Pali Market

Contd. from Page 3 and the BMC are ensuring that the cleared road is not taken away for parking.

The Corporator of the area Mr. Asif Zakaria has put in 100% efforts to get the market completed. Deadline after deadlines were given to Mr. Abhijeet Rane of Manthan Developers, who was appointed to execute the project, which finally got completed in March 2021.

Fed-up of the builder's false promises Pali Hill Residents Association along with Mrs. Shyama Kulkarni attended multiple meetings with the civic bodies, our MLA, Adv. Mr. Ashish Shelar who put a lot of pressure of Mr. Abhijeet Rane of Manthan Developers. It is only after these efforts that we



have finally succeeded in bringing all the licenced vendors inside. The road is now free for an easy drive.

It is this pro-citizens move which Pali Hill Residents Association took that we have been able to de-congest the area in and around Pali Market. Finally, the vendors have a permeant place to do their regular business.

Thanks to the recent terrible storm, there was leakage in the market. However, we are taking it up with Manthan Builders to repair it at the earliest.

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BMC Elections 2022

Contd from page 1 census data after 2011 is available, the BMC can only carry out rectification process. The SEC has also asked BMC to prepare new voters lists based on voter lists for 2019 state Assembly elections.

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Mumbai Meri Jaan is also available as an e-edition.

Those interested may send an email to: mmj.agni@gmail.com giving their email ids. -Ed.

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agni.central@gmail.com

Ph: 2416 5956

www.agnimumbai.in

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

AGNI Ward Coordinators

WARD NAME	AREAS	AGNI COORDINATOR	PHONE	EMAIL
A	Churchgate, Colaba, Cuffe Parade, Fort, SCT	Jennifer Shetty	9223415069	jenniferagni@gmail.com
D	Malabar Hill, Mahalaxmi, Opera House, Girgaum	Theo D'Souza	9820303940	theomdsouza@gmail.com
F/North	Sion, Wadala, Matunga(E), Dadar(E), Antop Hill	Nikhil Desai	9819930405	n.c.desai2012@gmail.com
G/North	Mahim, Dadar(W), Matunga(W), Dharavi	Bulu Saldanha	9920323831	Bulu_saldanha@yahoo.com
H/East	Bandra(E), Khar(E), Santa Cruz(E), Kalina	Reuben Dias	9930569225	Reuben6947@gmail.com
H/West	Bandra(W), Khar(W), Santa Cruz(W)	Lillian Pais	9920663748	Lillianpais66@gmail.com
K/East	Vile Parle(E), Andheri(E), Jogeshwari(E)	James John	9324086140	K_james_john@hotmail.com
K/West	Vile Parle(W), Andheri(W), Versova, Jogeshwari (W)	Zahida Banatwala	9820790749	Zahida55@gmail.com
L	Kurla, Nehru Nagar, Chandivli	Nutan Bhalla	9819171015	Nutsie59@gmail.com
N	Ghatkopar, Vikhroli	Kishor K. Chudasama	9821051346	Kishorkc_shantu@rediffmail.com
P/South	Goregaon(W)	Anthony Dias	9821291660	diasapvoice@gmail.com
R/South	Kandivli (East & West), Charkop	S. K. Nangia	932258038	Sknangia2004@yahoo.com
R/North	Borivli, Dahisar (East & West), IC Colony	Willie Sirsat, Shrikant Soman, Glenda Almeida	9820213392 9324228946 9820291563	Shirshatwillie382@hotmail.com Shrikant.soman@gmail.com Glenda.almeida@commerzbank.com
M/East	Deonar, Mankhurd, Govandi	Ashish Kumar Thakur	9820346359	asisthakur1941@gmail.com
M/West	Chembur	Krantikumar Sherkhane	7039030255	Krantikumars@gmail.com
S	Bhandul, Kanjurmarg, Powai	Pamela Cheema	9820150748	pamelacheema@gmail.com
T	Mulund	Laxmidas Thakkar	32911966	l.thakkar@yahoo.co.in

Mumbai Model: How the City Stayed a Step Ahead of the Coronavirus

👉 [Sucheta Dalal, MONEYLIFE](#)



Even as images of endless burning pyres are flashed across the globe accompanied by desperate social media messages, frantically seeking hospital beds in Delhi, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai is relatively calm. After a few stressful days in mid-April, there is no mindless panic, shortage of hospital beds or oxygen or queues to cremate the dead.

That Mumbai, with over 324,000 cases, has handled the second COVID-19 wave well, is not a matter of chance. It is the result of careful planning, quick action to fix emerging situations, a powerful feedback loop, smart information dissemination and the willingness to spend money to deal with a once-in-a-century crisis.

All this worked because of strong political support and, to a great extent, the gutsy and dynamic leadership of Mumbai's municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal.

That the main Opposition party has worked overtime to find faults and trip up the government was, probably, a blessing in disguise, especially since the high-stakes election for India's richest municipal corporation (with a budget larger than most state governments) is around the corner. It has ensured that the ruling coalition fully supported the all-out war to keep Mumbaikars alive.

It supported Mr Chahal's bold decision to ensure that Mumbai had an adequate stock of Remdesivir and other

medicines (especially in civic hospitals and facilities) and the struggle to ensure adequate oxygen allocation by the Centre after a [harrowing situation on 17 April 2021, when 168 patients were shifted overnight to hospitals with adequate oxygen without a single death.](#)



Mumbai has [halved its COVID cases in the past 20 days, even as the numbers across India are rising steadily.](#)

What is glaringly obvious, in contrast to the tragic mishandling of Delhi and other cities, is that Mumbaikars don't need to run from pillar-to-post for hospital beds or in search of oxygen and ICU (intensive care unit) beds on receiving COVID test results.

Mumbai's excellent handling has come in for praise by the Supreme Court of India as well as the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court. On 4th May, justice DY Chandrachud of the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition, ['advised the Central government and the Union health secretary to speak to the Mumbai municipal commissioner Mr Chahal and draw on the \(BMC\)'s experience of dealing with COVID BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation.](#)

On 2nd May, an order of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court asked the district

collector and the Nagpur municipal commissioner to set up a 24x7 control room and to "adopt the model devised by the BMC under the leadership of its Commissioner I S Chahal."

The 'Mumbai Model'

What exactly is the Mumbai model and can it be replicated across the country? Mr Chahal says a 'decentralised fight is the



between treating patients and contacting donors for basic supplies. The first wave largely affected over 300,000 people living in the slums of Mumbai. The second wave, more virulent, has primarily affected the middle class and the privileged and Mumbai has been reporting around 1,500 COVID positive cases every day.

On taking charge, visiting

hospitals and COVID hotspots like Dharavi, Mr Chahal worked on three strategies: 1) eliminate the panic; 2)

decentralise war rooms to cut response time; 3) build adequate infrastructure. Here's how each of these was rolled out with precision and discipline.

Eliminate Panic

A major reason for panic was that COVID test results were directly shared by testing laboratories with patients. Reports of tests conducted during the day were usually shared by evening. Although the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had a central control room, a flood of calls after the results began to overwhelm the helpline by 8pm causing chaos and panic as nearly 10,000 people tried to find hospital beds. One of Mr Chahal's first decisions was to abolish the central control room and order each of the COVID testing laboratories not to share test results directly with patients. They had to be shared with the BMC only.

24 War Rooms

In order to handle these test results shared with the BMC, he set up 24 war rooms, one in each civic ward. The 24 war rooms would be sent test results of patients in their wards by 6am. Each war-room was a control centre equipped with 30 telephone lines; it had 10 telephone

Contd. on Page 6

Mumbai Model: How the City Stayed a Step Ahead of the Coronavirus



Contd. from Page 5 operators, 10 doctors with medical support staff and 10 ambulances.

They worked round the clock in three shifts. Interestingly, their work was further divided by creating 10 dashboards within each ward with information about availability of beds making a total of 240 decentralised dashboards for the city of Mumbai.

Hub-and-Spoke Operation

The BMC head office acted as the hub that received and sorted out nearly 10,000 reports coming in from 55 testing labs every day and transmitted them to 24 wards. This reduced the load per ward to 400, or just 40 per dashboard within these.

The focus was on patients who tested positive and needed hospitalisation -- usually less than five. By 8am each ward-war room would be delivering results to people even as doctors and medical staff fanned out to the homes of those who tested positive. The key to this was staff and infrastructure.

Medical Staff

BMC invited doctors and medical support staff specifically to handle the war rooms (especially fresh graduates from medical colleges and nursing schools across the state), provided them with a hefty stipend (Rs50,000 per month) and hotel accommodation at walking distance within the ward. It could hire over 900 doctors as well as 600 nursing students to accompany the

ambulances in each ward.

Ambulances

Mr Chahal also requisitioned over 800 SUVs and refurbished them to separate the driver's area with a glass partition. These became makeshift



ambulances which were adequate to transfer patient with mild symptoms to hospital. He also asked Uber to help with its software platform to track and manage the 800 ambulances to create a well-streamlined and tech-savvy system.

Co-opting Hospitals

Very early in the pandemic, Maharashtra had decided to cap COVID treatment prices at all hospitals; this seems to be working well, after initial hiccups. Mr Chahal has a centralised dashboard of 172 hospitals and COVID facilities created by the BMC, including many jumbo centres set up in open grounds, government and private hospitals, including smaller hospitals. These have been told to admit patients only through the municipal war rooms (this is not strictly enforceable).

Each ward team meets patients, examines their condition and, where necessary, calls the dashboard to obtain a bed, as per their condition (ICU beds or oxygen beds, where necessary) and transfers patients directly to the hospital on confirmation. Those who can be home-quarantined are counselled with regular follow-up by the ward teams. This personal touch ensures that people do not block ICU beds when symptoms are mild enough to be taken care of by oxygen beds.

Intriguingly, the panic, if any, is created by entitled well-to-do patients insisting on a specific private hospital or refusing to get admitted to municipal facilities, despite the assurance that they are clean, well-maintained and air-conditioned. Those who have opted for the facilities have invariably complimented the BMC.

In addition, the BMC allowed patients to walk into any of the seven jumbo centres set up across the city to be tested or admitted directly, without waiting for swab tests and results. Mr Chahal says over 20,000 people have availed these facilities.

Crematoriums

It is notable that Mumbai had no images of long queues to cremate the dead. This too was a result of proper planning when fatalities increased. Mr

Chahal tied up with the Indian Institute of Technology to create an online dashboard of Mumbai's 47 crematoriums, which allots cremation slots to prevent crowding and allows people to bid their last farewell with dignity and relative privacy.

Future Ready

Apart from setting up multiple facilities and reviving those what were shut down after the first COVID wave, the BMC is preparing for a possible third COVID wave around July on a war footing. Mr Chahal says he has 5,500 beds including nearly 3,000 oxygen beds vacant and available today. These include nearly 2,000 ICU beds with oxygen and ventilators. Four more jumbo centres are being set up which will further enhance patient capacity by 2,000 beds including 200 ICU beds.

In effect, Mumbai has 22,000 beds today and that capacity will go up to 30,000 beds in three weeks. BMC plans to hand over each of these jumbo centres to be run by large private hospitals (five-star hospitals) so that patients who want to be treated with such facilities have no hesitation in being admitted there. This is expected to augment the capacity of beds for well-off Mumbaikars.

While this describes the nuts & bolts of the 'Mumbai Model' one must remember that effective implementation of a good plan is not about infrastructure and finances. It requires strong and uncompromising political leadership, and a livewire like Mr Chahal, that is able to motivate and take people along to be a step ahead of the virus.

MMJ

IMPORTANT NOTE
Due to Covid lockdown
therewill be no Print
Edition of Mumbai Meri
Jaan June 2021 issue,
only a digital Edition