

Mumbai Meri Jaan



Forward This To All - And All Forward - Together



Editorial

An Appeal

Shyama Kulkarni
AGNI Trustee &
Editorial Board Member

India which has 545 MPs in the Lok Sabha, 245 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, complemented by 4120 MLAs in the state legislatures, gave 5 lakh each from the funds allotted to them, Rs 2 billion, 45 crores and 50 lakhs will be collected.

If former MPs and MLAs too join, this will strengthen the much required Indian economy.

Now is the time for these politicians to come forward and help the nation in its hour of need.

I am making this request as an Indian citizen.

Please let this message go viral so that all politicians take note of it 🙏

Then all of us will definitely help the country in our own way.

MMJ

Helping the deprived in S ward

Pamela Cheema

In these dark and testing times of an unprecedented global pandemic, there are a few rays of light which dispel the all-encompassing gloom. Despite the abysmal response of the government to the plight of daily wage earners who have lost their jobs and been driven to the edge during the lockdown, there are scores of individuals and innumerable NGOs which have rushed to help the deprived in this humanitarian crisis.

S ward has a number of NGOs which are helping the needy who are slipping into even greater poverty—

one such NGO is Helping Hands For Humanity which is helmed by the mother-daughter duo, Anita Singh (President) and Anamika Sharma. Anamika is a teacher who is now a Coordinator in the IB section of S M Shetty School at Powai.

“My mother, Anita Singh, has lived in Powai for 40 years,” says Anamika, a little tired after a hectic day’s work distributing

rations to the poor and migrant workers of the ward. “She was a part of various social projects in Powai. A well-wisher, taking an overview of her work, advised her to start an NGO. My mother was reluctant, but our friend pointed out that she would be able to reach out to more people. That’s when she decided to establish her own NGO and she registered it three years ago. We work in five areas— education, the environment, social and cultural affairs and animal welfare.”

From March 18 requests started trickling in for help and Helping Hands For Humanity began assiduously collecting funds for the project to assist the poor. The NGO preferred donations in kind, preferably dry rations, and volunteers helped to pack the rations.

The NGO needed an open ground to distribute the packed rations and found a dump yard on which old cars were abandoned. Permission was sought from Powai police station to clear the dump yard and a shed erected to facilitate



Distributing Rations

distribution of the rations. “We devised a token system by which tokens are stamped and distributed and the person gets the rations the next day,” explains Anamika. “Of course, when we are distributing the material we have to take precautions against Covid 19, but we believe that if you do things with good intentions, a Higher Power will help you. The poor have their own dignity. We have noticed that people are embarrassed to stand in the line to receive the rations and their eyes turn moist when they are given the material.” Many of the poor who receive this assistance live in other wards too, notably Kurla, L ward.

Helping Hands For Humanity plans to continue this stream of assistance “at least until the lockdown is over,” says Anamika simply.

Pamela Cheema is AGNI's Coordinator in S ward

MMJ

TARE ZAMEEN PAR – Action replay: All Mumbai Drawings Competition

All Mumbai Drawing Competition was organized by Wadala Sports League on May 26, in order to keep mumbaikars busy and active during the gloomy lockdown period. It was an online conference system. There were over 100 participants both individuals,

families, children and adults.

Wadala Sports League is a non-profit citizens' movement with an objective to create events that promote harmony, camaraderie and recognition of localities. Wadala Sports League has organised 2 editions of Wadala Box Cricket League, several

small and big events like Housie in the past. Wadala Sports League live by the motto: Don't race against others, race against yourself.

Some of the Reactions:

It must have been a real adventure holding this drawing competition during the current trying times of the Covid Lockout. Children always enjoy participating in a drawing competition because it gives a lot of scope to them to demonstrate their imagination and creativity. I commend your initiative. - **D. M. Sukthankar, Chairman, AGNI** (Action for good Governance & Networking in India)

It is an excellent activity you have organized. The innovative output they brought out is simply superb. Hats off to the team for organizing such an

innovative project. - **Dr. K. S. R. Murthy, Secretary General, CoRWA** (Confederation of Resident Welfare Associations in India)

Nice and innovative idea – **Praveen Agarwal** (CoRWA)

Good Activity. Congrats – **Babu Rao Kesana** (CoRWA)

Delightful art! The younger children of our country are the 'Incredible India'. Congratulations to Wadala Sports League. – **Gita Dendukuri** (CoRWA)

Wow! Such lovely drawings

Contd. on Page 4

Results and winning drawings on Page 4

Sharad Kumar

Some of the participants



Swachha Mumbai Abhiyaan

Battling cancer in the time of COVID-19

 Anil Nair - CEO, St. Jude Childcare Centres

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our way of living, St. Jude Childcare Centres continue to provide support and care to families of children who are battling cancer, by offering them a safe and hygienic place to stay, cooking facilities, nutritious ration, transport to and from the hospital, value-based education, and counselling services. These children are highly vulnerable to secondary infections due to their rigorous treatment and need heightened care and support, especially at this time.

St. Jude ensures that their centres continue to operate in a safe manner:

chemotherapy and other medical interventions are sent to the hospital. A doctor is available for routine procedures.



Stocking up on essentials

St. Jude is making sure that families do not leave the centres in search of essentials. In addition to the ration, arrangements have been made for eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables to be delivered to all 38 centres across 9 cities.

Procuring medicines

Many of the children have returned home after treatment. Some of the families have been calling in distress as they are unable to get essential medicines in their rural towns and villages. St. Jude has been dispatching medicines through various means.

Virtual activities

All activities at St. Jude centres have become virtual – from teachers conducting education sessions on WhatsApp to online volunteer tutoring for older children. The counsellors are conducting online sessions for families as well.

Staff welfare

Transport arrangements have been made for centre staff, housekeeping team and security personnel to reach the centres and return home. Some of the staff stay at the centres to take care of the children and families.

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Hygiene and safety

St. Jude is making sure that the families are vigilant and aware of good hygiene practices and are providing them all the essentials such as hand sanitizers, PPE suits, soaps, and disinfectants. The use of masks by all has been made mandatory – and have distributed two masks per person throughout all centres.

On-campus care

St. Jude's partner hospitals have advised all children to stay away from hospitals as much as possible because they are vulnerable to secondary infections. To help, Tata Memorial Hospital has set-up an OPD unit to ensure that children are screened at the Cotton Green campus itself, and only those who require

Empowerment of women – P & T Dept. and MMRDA

The post and telegraph department of Government of India empowered women by



converting the Wadala R.S. Post Office to a fully women post office.

This Wadala Post Office was originally the Wadala delivery Post Office. Later the Delivery Post Office was shifted to Dwarkanath Bhavan at Shri Ram Mandir and this was renamed Wadala R. S. (Railway Station) Post Office.

Smt. Pramila P. Melekar is the



first Sub Post Master of the fully woman's post office.



Meanwhile, MMRDA the nodal agency that has been running the monorail in Mumbai is set to get three women pilots and three station masters. The women are currently undergoing 45-day training period.

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Banana campaign

 Austin Nazareth

Kindness Unlimited launched the #Go Banana campaign during the lockdown.

Kindness Unlimited along with implementation partner Project Mumbai and Holy Cross

High School Kurla, have taken on the task of providing 5,000 bananas a day to the kids of the

homeless, migrant and daily wage earners, construction workers, contract labourers, street vendors and slum dwellers all across Mumbai during the lockdown.



MMJ



Feedback to MMJ May 2020 issue to Editor

I must compliment you and your team for bringing out this edition of Mumbai Meri Jaan against all odds during the present difficult period. It rightly highlights what our Coordinators/volunteers are doing to help the vulnerable sections during the current extremely trying times. Austin's contribution in collating all reports is also commendable. Well done indeed, and keep it up!

Regards,
D.M.Sukthankar

MMJ

Khabardhari Mein Samajhdari Hain

 Austin Nazareth

When we read these lines, some of us will smile and remember Lalitaji, the Middle Class housewife bargaining in the market for the price but making no compromise on quality.

Yes, you have guessed it right, it was the much talked about Lintas ad for Surf detergent. And your nagging suspicion is again right about 'Khabardhari...' This describes the creative efforts of Lintas much before we were swamped with Corona Virus and Karo Hand Wash.

Lintas now known as Lowe Lintas has been working as a change agent with their Lifebuoy Hand Wash. Their goal was not to win any brand war but to inculcate a habit of hygiene. Most of the illness plaguing our children comes from eating with unwashed hands and because this habit is more among the underprivileged classes, they end up further in debt with medical bills. Hopefully, India will see a change towards better hygiene and personal care.

AGNI Trustee and Convenor, Mr. Gerson da



Cunha was with Lintas for 26 years, 10 of them as its Chairman. Years after he retired, he was requested to inaugurate Lowe Lintas new offices in BKC. And there was the return gift that Lowe Lintas would create pro bone all communication materials for AGNI.

But then came along Corona and everything was Karo Na and Na. But Lowe Lintas continued to churn out ideas and videos to make a difference.

Mr. da Cunha requested Ms Sharmine Panthaky of Lowe Lintas for any communication materials that would be relevant for this Pandemic Times. Sharmine sent video links, of which 'Carona se mat daro na' and 'Me Mumbai Police' were circulated on AGNI's social media network.

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.

Once you make a donation, to issue the 80G Certificate, kindly email us your Name, Amount and the Contact details to agni.central@gmail.com

MMJ

Two poems on Corona virus

 Pius Gonsalves

HOMAGE

(For those who lost their life due to this disease)

Countless people are dying, as if death has become very much cheap
 One country is responsible for this state; did play senseless mischief
 Relatives and friends can't attend the funerals; grief to heart is deep
 Only God we all shall pray; & allow the cure slowly and steadily creep
 No job- no income, hunger also causes death; prices going up too steep
 Almighty is the only hope left for us; in Him let us strengthen our belief
 V must learn to live with it; research still going on for vaccine for relief
 It is a worst kind of nightmare; don't know when the next wave will sweep
 Rest all depends on our efforts; let us not forget social distancing to keep
 Ultimate result is in the hands of the doctors; wait for the benefit to reap
 Souls shall be rested in peace; of those who have gone to permanent sleep.

COVID - 19

(For all the brave warriors fighting the Corona virus)

No one can imagine the severe & worst damage caused by this pandemic
 India, Italy, America; name any country whose condition is not so pathetic
 Non- vegetarians turned vegetarians; surviving only on fruits, milk, drumstick
 Everything has become so costly, including all consumer's items & of domestic
 The lock down has made life difficult and miserable; further making it static
 Entire world is in turmoil; the disease becoming very contagious and caustic
 Even our brave warriors are affected; making their life dangerous and hectic
 None other than the Creator alone can save us; through His miraculous magic.

MMJ

For donations received from March to May 2020:

Lakeside Infotech Pvt. Ltd. Rs.50,000/=
 Mr. D. M. Sukthankar Rs.25,000/=
 Intermedics Healthca Rs.25,000/=
 Mr.Gerson daCunha Rs.10,000/=
 Dinesh Ahir Rs.10,000/=
 Smt. Shyama Kulkarni Rs.10,000
 Mr. Suresh Nangia Rs.10,000/=
 Marco Shipping Service Pvt. Ltd. Rs.10,000/=
 Mr. Joaquim D'Mello Rs. 500/=
 Dr. Aarti Subramani Rs. 500/=
 Mr. Vinod Naronha Rs.500/=
 Prof. Earnest Fernandes Rs.500/=
 Mercina Priya Trust Rs.500/=

A VERY
 BIG
 THANK YOU

Winners of Wadala Sports League present 4.0 Drawing Competition

Category : 03yrs to 05yrs

1st **Rugved Gore**

2nd **Kavya Ashar**

3rd **Stuti Nagda**

Category : 05yrs to 08yrs

1st **Shivanand Solanke**

2nd **Aashi Chauhan**

3rd **Shiryansh Atkari**

Category : 08yrs to 14yrs

1st **Deetya Sheth**

2nd **Jiya Gala**

3rd **Kasturi Gawde**

Wadala Sports League present 4.0 Drawing Competition

Category : 14yrs to 30yrs

1st **Yashvee Shah**

2nd **Krislyn Saldanha**

3rd **Manish R**

Category : 30+ yrs

1st **Shilpa Jain**

2nd **Santosh Chandrashekhar**

3rd **Maitreyi Mehta**

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

Some reactions Karuna art campaign

Contd. from Page 1

with positive messages. So creative! Enjoyed seeing them. – Prof. Shruti Kumar (USA)

Very Nice!! So many entries. Will see them again slowly – Dr. Meera

Nicely done drawings – Keerthi Kumar

Superb drawings very good event. Keep it up! – Prasanna Thakkar **MMJ**

Kindness Unlimited also runs the #KarunaArt campaign on its Instagram page and have been donating Rs 500 towards Covid19 causes on behalf of every contributing



artist who have come forward and been sending poems, paintings, songs etc to help spread cheer.

Artist Al Qawi came forward to encourage youth to donate to the Go Banana campaign by making portraits of donors as a gift. Another lawyer cum artist Adil Ladha donated 30% of the sale of his art work to Kindness Unlimited to continue distribution of 1.5 lakh bananas which have reached the most vulnerable - our future. Many others caught on to the idea of adding fruits to the ration distribution and KU is happy they helped spark a simple idea. **MMJ**

The Judges

- Ami Mehta**
Artist & Art Educator at Scribble School of Art
- Shubha Gokhale**
Painter & Jewellery Designer
- Siddhesh Bagwe**
Art Teacher at Datta Meghe World Academy
- Sonia Jain**
Art Teacher at Sophia College
- Zaveri Bhanshali**
Art Teacher at Zavi Art Palate **MMJ**

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

AGNI Ward Coordinators

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