



Yeoman's service: Members of Mitra Parivar, Manish Chandekar, Vinod Tiwari, Pramod Shende, Shreyas Chinchmalatpure, Subodh Chinchmalatpure, Sagar Navrange and others distributed food packets and biscuits to the poor and destitute in the areas of Tajbag, ST Bus Stop and adjoining areas as lockdown to contain of COVID-19. The Mitra Pariwar members also fed the stray dogs that are starving as the eateries and hotels are shut. (Pics by Satish Raut)



COVID-19 and Brain: Patient may present with Neuro Manifestations – Dr Avindra Nath

■ Principal Correspondent

WHILE COVID-19 presents mainly with respiratory problems, some patients may present with neurological manifestations, said Dr Avindra Nath, Chief, Section of infections of nervous system, National Institute of Health, USA during his web based talk to Indian Neurologists.

Some of the epidemics in the history, which hit the world badly were Small Pox, Plague, Influenza, swine flu, etc. 1918 Flu Pandemic was the deadliest in human history, during which 25% of world's population was affected and 50 million people lost their lives. Since then, COVID-19 is the worst pandemic which has taken the world by storm.

Dr Nath mentioned that, coronavirus has central nervous system manifestations like dizziness, headache, impaired consciousness, cerebrovascular episode, imbalance while walking, epilepsy, meningitis, encephalitis and encephalopathy. Some psychiatric manifestations like delirium, hallucinations, mood disorders, hypomania, anxiety and depression are observed.

Peripheral nervous system manifestations include Anosmia (loss of smell),



Dr Nath



Dr Meshram

Neuralgia, impairment of taste, muscle injury. Anosmia may last longer. Some neurological manifestations may appear even before pneumonia and therefore it is important to be aware about this fact.

The virus has been detected from cerebrospinal fluid around brain in patients having neurological manifestations. In animal experiments it is demonstrated that virus can enter the brain and lungs from nose.

Some patients having neurological diseases like multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, dermatomyositis and are on immunotherapy are at higher risk of developing corona infection. Some patients can have post viral acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. Time will tell, if patients develop some long term neurological complications secondary to corona. After 1918 epidemic of sleeping sickness,

many patients with Parkinson's disease were reported.

Dr Avindra Nath emphasised, about 3,000 clinical trials are going on in the world for prevention and treatment of coronavirus. As of now, the treatment is mainly supportive. Most of the patients are asymptomatic and recover on their own. Vaccine testing is going on, but it will take long time for the use in community. There are some positive reports of using plasma of patients who have recovered from COVID-19, for treatment of serious patients of coronavirus. Therefore, it is important to do antibody testing, keep a track of people having high antibody levels in their blood and use their plasma for treatment of other seriously ill patients, expressed Dr Chandrasekar Meshram, President of Tropical Neurology group of World Federation of Neurology (WFN). He also mentioned that a task force of WFN has been formed to study the neurological manifestations of COVID-19. As there is no specific treatment, people should make every attempt to prevent the infection by taking necessary precautions, strictly following Government guidelines and staying at home.

Drunkard dies of ill-health

■ Staff Reporter

A DRUNKARD died due to ill-health in MIDC police station area.

The deceased was identified as Vaibhav Manohar Mote (43), a resident of Date lay-out, MIDC. According to police, the man was habitual drinker. He was found in unconscious condition at his house on Sunday. MIDC police rushed him at hospital where he breathed his last on Monday.

MIDC police have registered a case of accidental death.

Nagpur have started migrating their homes amid lockdown.

It is become a tough time for the migrants to stay in Nagpur or to proceed towards their town or village during this lockdown.

Many social organisations and State Government started feeding such migrants on their route. Keeping this crisis in mind, all employees of forest department have decided to donate their one and two days salaries to the CM Fund to tackle such crisis.

Forest employees to donate a day's salary

■ Staff Reporter

MAHARASHTRA State Gazetted Forest Officers Association, Maharashtra Rajya Van va Samajik Vanikaran Karyalayin Karmachari Sanghatana and Maharashtra Forest Rangers Association have decided to donate one-day salary of every employee to Chief Minister COVID-19 Relief Fund.

The lockdown in all over Maharashtra raised economic crisis in the State, people from other states who are working in

NMC files police complaint against person spreading rumours of 'water spraying'

■ Health Committee chief Virendra Kukreja alleges that rumours are 'politically motivated'

■ Staff Reporter

NAGPUR Municipal Corporation (NMC), on Monday, filed a complaint with Jaripatka Police against the person allegedly spreading rumours of spraying of water instead of disinfectant. Virendra Kukreja, Chairman of Health Committee of NMC, the allegations of 'water spraying' were 'politically motivated'.

As per the directions of Tukaram Mundhe, Municipal Commissioner, NMC started spraying of disinfectant through

fire tenders and sanitation workers in various areas of the city. However, some people allegedly circulated a video on social media alleging that instead of disinfectant only water was being sprayed. Dr Pradeep Dasarwar, Health Officer (Sanitation), issued a statement on Monday night and informed the media that NMC had filed a complaint in this regard.

According to Dr Dasarwar, sodium hypochloride was being used for spraying. However, some people from Jaripatka alleged that water was being sprayed in the name of disinfectant. "The district administration and NMC both are making honest efforts to protect the people from coronavirus infection. Through hand-spray also, sodium hypochloride

is being sprayed in various areas. In such a situation, false allegations are being circulated on social media by some persons to create panic in society. We have lodged a police complaint in this regard," he added.

Virendra Kukreja also issued a statement in which he rubbished the allegations of 'water spraying'. "The allegations are politically motivated. Some people are trying to malign the image by raising suspicion over honesty of efforts being put in by NMC to contain spread of coronavirus infection. These people should keep in mind that this is not the time for politics. Still, if they continue with their such activities, we will seek stringent police action against them," he stated.

RR rates of property to continue till May

■ Staff Reporter

THE Ready Reckoner (RR) rates of property prevailing in the current financial year 2019-20 will continue to be the same at least till May 31 in the financial year 2020-21.

Omprakash Deshmukh, Chief Controlling Revenue Authority and Inspector General of Registration and Stamp Duty Controller, Maharashtra, issued an order in this regard on Monday. As per the order, the prevailing Annual Schedule of Rates (ASR), guidelines, and rates of new construction for the year 2019-20 will continue to be in effect during

the period from April 1 to May 31, 2020. The RR rates will remain the same till May 31 or 'further Government orders, whichever is earlier' across the State.

Deshmukh issued the order owing to problems in preparation of ASR for 2020-21. The problems arose due to presence of limited manpower in the office during lockdown announced in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. His office had urged the Government to issue directives in the given situation. Accordingly, the Government allowed to continue with 2019-20 ASR up to May 31 in 2020-21.

Matang community urges authorities to extend help

■ Staff Reporter

THE members of Matang community, who are traditionally engaged in band parties and trading of rugs (*chindh*), are facing starvation, following lockdown due to outbreak of coronavirus.

The social gatherings including marriages have been cancelled. The booking of Band Parties have also

been cancelled. They get major bookings from February to May. Lahu Sena, an organisation of the community has appealed to the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Guardian Minister Dr Nitin Raut and District Collector Ravindra Thakre to make arrangement for supply of food items and also to extend financial help to the community.

They are located in Bhande

Plot, Dasra Road Mangpura, Kachipura Ramdaspeth, Navi Shukrawari, Gulabbaba Math Siraspeth, Chinchbhavan, Karnalbag, Lakdipul, Mahal; Hattinala, Bariapura Laganj, Pardi Matangpura, Matangopura Khamla, Ambazari Hill Top, Pandhlabodi, etc. The appeal has been made by President of Lahu Sena Sanjay Kathale.

Maha Metro, contractors taking care of their field workers, providing facilities to fight COVID-19 threat

■ Staff Reporter

ENSURING that workforce remains fighting fit, Maha Metro in tow with its contractors have taken upon themselves the task of caring for work force in current stage of lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19. M/s Afcons Infrastructure Limited that is handling nearly 70 per cent of work in city was first off the block when it undertook awareness programme at workers colonies and also at work sites.

"We started from March 17 only and slowly started scaling down work and sites even as ordering medical examination of work force knowing well the dangers even if one contracts COVID-19," said Amar Raut, Project Manager, while talking to *The Hitavada*.

Nearly 1,200 people from Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal are working with us and even discharging them temporarily and allowing them to return to their native places was fought with risk. This would have entailed travelling long distances and in case of lifting of lockdown further getting them back well in time would have been difficult. Hence a decision was taken to keep them safe at sites and temporary colonies, one at Nagalwadi and other at Khairi, so that work can be resumed without wasting much time in again arranging logistics.

Besides two quarantine facilities were also put in place, two rooms at Khairi and two at Nagalwadi, where casting yard is located, so that same could be used if needed. One more step that was taken Raut said was to stop newcomers at site as a matter of abundant precaution.

Daily talks are arranged by doctors to remove fear from minds of workers and make them aware about cleaning their hands, using of sanitizers and wearing the masks, they were provided to all the workers. Further we noticed that the labourers used to move out in groups for local marketing and hence company stepped in to ensure that their daily require-



Doctor counselling construction workers about awareness measures needed to be taken in backdrop of outbreak of coronavirus

ment is delivered at their doorsteps. Now the workers are quite happy and their families back home too are not worried as ample care is being taken at site by the employers.

The colonies of workers, their utensils and instruments used at work sites were thoroughly sanitised. The buses used for their transport are scientifically sanitised after every two days, Raut told *The Hitavada* further. Two full time ambulances are hired and kept on stand-by to attend the patients who report about any problem with their health.

Smaller groups were formed of workers wherein they were encouraged to share every minute detail about their respective health as Raut said this enabled officers to known fast and respond accordingly.

M/s Afcons also reaching out to cops on duty

SIDE by side serving their workforce, M/s Afcons have also taken upon themselves the task of reaching out to police personnel stationed on duty on the project alignment. Apart from providing them masks and sanitizers, the company also talked to senior officials and got permission to

provide them lunch as and when needed. Similarly as part of their social outreach, the company is also happily serving stranded people by roadside.

Brijesh Dixit takes stock of situation

SIMULTANEOUSLY, Maha Metro on its part issued initiated series of precautionary steps in view of coronavirus threat. Hygiene lev-

el at office premises was enhanced in each chamber, particularly at touch points continuously. A Centre with Project Director, General Consultant was set up to monitor day-to-day developments.

Maha Metro also put-up display boards to that effect on TV screens and announcements at Metro Stations on awareness to combat COVID-19. The directives issued by MoHUA and Ministry of Health, Union Government have been displayed on social media. The 'Dos and Don'ts' are displayed at important locations. Maha Metro, undertook series of measures to prevent spread of this disease.

The coaches of Metro were thoroughly disinfected and entire premises of stations were also sprayed with disinfectant till the lockdown came into effect.

Dr Brijesh Dixit, Managing Director, Maha Metro, himself took review of awareness measures and also visited the work site and the workers colonies to inspect the arrangements made by contractors. Thermal gun are being used to screen temperatures of those associated with metro construction work.



Dr Brijesh Dixit, MD, Maha Metro, undergoing temperature screening at one of the work site of Nagpur Metro