

THE DAY AFTER

# Civic workers clean up sludge, waste

## 9,600 MT garbage collected; civic chief says 28,000 people at work

ARITA SARKAR & SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

AS THE rainwater receded leaving heaps of garbage on the streets and highways, thousands of labourers from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's Solid Waste Management department spent most of Wednesday tirelessly cleaning up the sludge. By the end of the day, 9,600 metric tonnes of garbage had been picked up and sent to dumping grounds. The amount included the daily average of 7,500 metric tonnes of waste generated by the city.

"Our daily output is around 7,500 metric tonnes and in half a day, because of the heavy rain, 1,500 metric tonne of solid waste had been collected from the roads on Tuesday and 300 tonnes from a Slum Safai Abhiyaan taken up on Wednesday. An additional 300 tonnes of waste has been collected from various beaches and cumulatively, 9,600 tonnes of garbage has been taken to the three dumping grounds in the city," said an official from the department.

Municipal Commissioner Ajoy Mehta said the cleaning operation was underway since early morning by 28,000 workers and staff members.

The garbage comprised thermocol, plastic bags and wrappers. The worst-hit areas were LBS Road in Kurla where sludge caused by the overflowing water of the Mithi river made the road slippery and a risky ride for two-wheelers. The SWM staff had to cordon off portions of the road for the clean up.

The situation was similar in Hindmata and Gandhi Market

where water levels had not receded till Wednesday morning even though the BMC claimed that all six pumping stations were functional throughout Tuesday. "Even though we have installed several de-watering pumps in the area, the water that had accumulated near Hindmata as well as near Sion station refused to recede. Officials at the site, however, had reported that there was a lot of floating garbage that had to be removed before the water level started receding," said a senior civic official.

Wardwise figures indicated that the highest quantity of waste was 293 metric tonne collected from two wards, K West comprising Andheri, Juhu and Versova and L Ward comprising Kurla.

Workers on the night shift and the early shift at 6.30am were seen cleaning up laboriously. "After such a situation, the immediate priority is to ensure cleanliness so that spread of diseases can be curbed. With many workers unable to reach work, the workload on those who managed to reach was more. A lot of garbage had accumulated, especially wherever water had accumulated. We had to ensure that it was removed immediately," said Mohan Bhosale, a conservancy worker deployed in Bandra.

Additional temporary workers through contractors were engaged. In Matunga area, two women deployed to clean streets said due to the rain, it was taking twice the time to complete the work. "Usually, we complete a 2 km stretch in three hours. Today, it has taken us over four hours. There is a lot of plastic stuck on the sides of the roads," said one of the workers.



(Top) Garbage accumulated on LBS Road; (above) residents walk on railway tracks between Matunga and Kurla. Prashant Nadkar

## Over 40 goats die in flooded Deonar abattoir

Officials at the abattoir claim Deonar is low-lying area & prone to flooding

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

THE DEATH of five of his 80 goats during the heavy water-logging at the Deonar abattoir on Tuesday, has come as a blow for Iqbal Qureshi.

"I came from Neemuch just to sell my goats that I have reared myself," he said. "There was nothing I could do to keep them dry. The entire ground was flooded." Soon after 4 pm on Tuesday, when the high tide came, till 9 pm, the entire Deonar abattoir remained flooded. Officials estimate at least 42 goats died on Tuesday, and the count may escalate after Wednesday.

"We were able to move all goats to upper levels by 9 pm. By then all of them were drenched," Qureshi said.

Since August 21, ahead of Bakrid, 1.61 lakhs goats and 5,700 buffaloes have arrived, and 39,881 have been sold. While the rate of a goat starts at Rs 10,000 and can go upwards of Rs 50,000, traders on Wednesday claimed there was a dip of Rs 2,000-Rs 8,000 in prices due to rains.

"Customers were not ready to pay a higher amount saying the goats may have caught infection after the rains," said Rajasthan-based Shaukeen Khan, who brought 110 goats to Deonar.

On Wednesday, he made a loss of Rs 7,000-8,000 on each large goat that he sold. "Yesterday, I got tired looking for shelter for my goats. They were panicking."

The rain waters reached waist-level, traders claim, leaving several shorter goats gasping for air.

Officials at the abattoir claim Deonar is low-lying area and prone to flooding. Every monsoon, the 1970-built abattoir gets flooded.

"We have a renovation plan where the entire ground level will be raised. But until that happens, we have to face this problem," a manager said.

On Tuesday, the administration shut the slaughter house on upper levels to accommodate the goats.

Twelve water pumps were used through Tuesday night to clear the water. "Sweepers used brushes to clear debris from the ground. Bleaching agent was used to sanitise the ground," a manager said.

But on Wednesday evening, the entire ground was muddy, and all the goats still wet due to frequent showers.

Husaina Qureshi bought five goats for Rs 15,000 each to sell at his Airoli shop. "Each goat costs me Rs 2,500 less. But they are wet. What if they die?" he worries.

According to Mohammed Ali Qureshi, president of Mumbai Suburban Beef Dealers' Association, a goat is prone to catching infections in rains. "After the rains, the drinking water also become muddy. Chances of more deaths are high," he said. For now, on 64 acres of ground, there are 40,000 sheds covered with tarpaulin sheets to shelter the goats.

tabassum.barnagarwala@expressindia.com

## Metro work stopped

BENITA CHACKO  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

THE DAY-LONG downpour that brought the city to its knees on Tuesday, also brought the construction of metro lines to a halt. However, according to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the downpour did not cause any damage to the work.

"No untoward incidents were reported from our sites. We had stopped our construction work but our labourers were deployed to look into safety measures, like tying up barricades to ensure they do not fly away in the wind and switching off the power supply at the casting yard," said a senior MMRDA official working with Metro 2A.

The MMRDA deployed several dewatering pumps across the alignment to ensure no water remains accumulated within the barricades.

"We had at least four dewatering pumps in each of the packages. The work has resumed and in a day or two, the girder erection will also begin," said a senior MMRDA official working on Metro 7.

However, a staff member working on the project revealed that during dewatering, a lot of muck flowed out of the barricade. "The muck had not been discarded for days. So when the water was pumped out, the muck also went out. Fortunately, no accidents were reported due to it," he said.

Responding to detailed questions sent to the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), a spokesperson said: "Waterlogging was observed for few hours at some low-lying areas at our sites which was resolved by deploying adequate number of dewatering pumps."

## Employees asked to stay at home or work from home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

A DAY after incessant rains and flooding in a number of areas in the commercial capital of Mumbai, most companies with offices in the city asked employees to stay at home or work from home fearing heavy shower. Banking firms, however, said bank branches were running normally but the poor weather had impacted the footfall.

"Branches are functioning normally. Those of us who could come to work without having to brave too much difficulty are at work. Some of us would be working from home while some who reached home late last night would have taken the day off. There would be some impact on the turnout as you would expect on a day like this. Footfall is lower," said an HDFC Bank spokesperson. India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI), said the services were unaffected and the branches were operating normally. Some of the country's top firms said they had advised employees to work from home and in some cases, asked them to take a day off.

"We have not made it compulsory for employees to come to office. Those who stay close to our offices have turned up. But at least 200 employees who stayed back last night have been asked to stay at home today," said the official spokesperson of Reliance Industries Ltd. Tata Sons spokesperson said: "Our work is not affected as a number of us are working from home." Business activities in Mumbai came to a standstill on Tuesday post lunch after flooding in downtown areas. It forced corporates, financial institutions and broking firms to allow staffers return home early. On Wednesday, the rain was less, but many did not venture out due to the government advisory and weather forecast of more rainfall in the city.

## Protect mangroves to prevent flood, say environmentalists

BENITA CHACKO  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE reiterated the importance of mangroves in preventing flooding, a day after rain lashed the city.

Environmentalist Debi Goenka said: "Mangroves have an extensive root system and act like sponges in absorbing excess water. But we are only looking at the short term. The Chief Minister is looking at providing ease of business. This gives builders a free hand to do as they like. Mumbai would be the only

smart city in the world, which constructs buildings first and then thinks of providing infrastructure. That area, too, is then made into parks, open spaces, mangroves and wetlands."

According to Goenka, the eastern suburbs would not see as much of flooding earlier due to the presence of mangroves. "But now after increased dumping in Kanjurmarg and Bhandup the mangroves have been destroyed and with the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Malad, it will also soon head the same way," she added.

Goenka alleged that the

Mangrove Cell has failed in protecting the mangroves in areas where it is degrading.

"Today, the cell is into a lot of activities, which it was not initially meant for. While this has worked well for the state's biodiversity, it has not worked really well for the mangroves," he added.

According to Stalin D of Vanashakti, it was not just the mangroves that needed to be protected but the wetlands too. "If we are to compare the data with 2005 we seem to have conserved our mangroves. We need to protect the wetlands as well.

When we create obstacles between the water bodies like ponds, lakes, rivers, creeks, etc and land it is bound to cause flooding," he added.

Commending the Mangroves Cell for the work done in protecting the mangroves, Stalin said, "Mangroves cannot be moved from one place to another as it is at a particular location for a reason. We need to prevent the tradeoff of the mangrove land for development projects. However this is lost on the judiciary."

Officials from the Mangrove Cell were unavailable for comment.

## Power outage: Substations switched off in flooded areas

PRIYANKA SAHOO  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

AS WATER level rose outside the house amid heavy rain, the Jhobalia family in Matunga was left in the dark, cut off from the outside world with the electricity supply disconnected on Tuesday afternoon.

"We did not know what was happening outside as we could not see the news on TV. We had to save the battery in our phones as we did not know for how long the power could be gone," said Tejaswini Jhobalia.

"A family member was injured. It became difficult to tend to the injury in the dark," she said.

Their housing society saw a power outage of almost 17 hours on Tuesday. "Lights went off around 4pm on Tuesday and the power was back only around 10 in the morning. We kept calling the helpline but either the number was busy or there was no response," said Tejaswini.

In several areas, especially the flooded ones, substations

were switched off by electricity suppliers to avoid short circuits and electrocution. As water levels rose on Tuesday afternoon, power suppliers, Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Reliance Energy and Tata Power announced that substations had been switched off as a safety protocol.

This left many houses in the dark for over 10 hours. While some could not cook as they depend on induction cookers, others in high rises could not go out as lifts were not working. "Cut off from news, we did not know for how long the blackout would last. Those with inverters, too, didn't want to run appliances as it would take up too much energy," said Noor Zehra Gheewala, a resident of Mumbra.

Many areas also saw cable failures. In Gandhi Market, power failure in some housing societies occurred on Tuesday night and was to be restored till late.

Shaishab Zaveri, a resident of Motibaug in Gandhi Market, said

calls to helplines did not yield results.

"After our initial complaint, a team from BEST visited the spot and told us that there was a cable failure. They said a different team would come and tend to the problem. However, nobody has turned up yet," said Zaveri.

A BEST official said the undertaking lacked manpower and vehicles to tend to all the complaints received over the past two days.

"Most parts in the city have underground cables and if there is a failure, it takes time to identify the point of failure. Complaints received on Tuesday could not be tended to owing to the rain and have been carried over to Wednesday adding to the work," said the official.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) received 55 complaints of short-circuit from the city, according to data received from the corporation.

priyanka.sahoo@expressindia.com

Western Railway to run Bi-Weekly AC Superfast Pooja/Diwali Special Train between MUMBAI CENTRAL-NEW DELHI from 6.10.2017 to 27.11.2017

Train No.	Days & Dates of Departure	Departure	Arrival
09005	Friday & Sunday 6th October, 2017 to 26th November, 2017	Mumbai Central 16.00 hrs.	New Delhi 07.55 hrs. (next day)
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**39th Annual General Meeting**  
Company Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Limited is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 26th September 2017 at 12.15 PM at State Institute of Agriculture Management (SIAM), Durgapura, Jaipur to transact the business, set out in the notice to the members, sent at their registered address, along with explanatory statement in respect of the special business pursuant to section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013. Notice containing agenda items along with Annual Report for the year 2016-17 has already been sent separately to the members. The Notice of 39th Annual General Meeting with Annual Report for the year 2016-17 is also available on our website [www.rajseeds.org](http://www.rajseeds.org).

For the appointment of Director under Section 160 of the Companies Act, 2013; the interested person himself or some other member intending to propose him should submit notice of candidature for directorship of interested person along with a fee of Rs. 1,00,000/- at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, at the Registered Office of the company.

Note:- It is compulsory for the shareholders to bring the Share Certificate or Identity Card/ Document issued by RSSCL for identification in the above Annual General Meeting.

By the order of Board of Directors  
(Sushma Arora)  
Managing Director  
DIN 07230805

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**Advertisement for engagement of Consultant**

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Contract Period: The selected candidates may be engaged on contract for a period of 03 (three) years on annual renewal basis. Subject to satisfactory performance, the contract may be extended on mutual consent. The contract may be terminated by either party by giving three month's notice in writing.  
Age Limit: The age of the candidate should not be more than 35 years. The Condition may be relaxed for deserving candidates with higher qualification and experience.  
Remuneration: Negotiable depending upon qualification and experience.  
Applicants may send their resume with copies of two recent photographs and copies of credentials addressed to the **Chief General Manager, IPICOL, IPICOL House, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022** by Regd. Post / Speed Post on or before **September 14, 2017**.  
The Management reserves the right to accept / reject any or all of the applications without assigning any reason thereof.  
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**Chief General Manager**