

#MYSOCIETYPRIDE A SHOT OF HOPE

Celebrating the gestures of humanity amid second wave

Fresh in the heat of lock-down 1.0 in March 2020, a refrigerator had materialised in the lobby of an upscale Versova building. Inside it, every day, residents would place home-cooked dishes that the not-so-privileged security guards could help themselves to when they felt peckish on duty.

Such unprecedented gestures of humanity resurfaced in many corners of the city this year in the wake of the second wave when the city gasped for oxygen and hospitals ran out of beds. From setting up Covid care centres or quarantine spaces to creating oxygen cylinder or concentrator banks, from helping arrange for medicines to providing ambulances and groceries at the doorstep, many residents' welfare associations and local colonies went way beyond their brief to help during the time of crisis.

Given that such human endeavours run the risk of being overlooked if not forgotten, we at **TOI** want to insure these gestures against short-term public memory by recognizing and celebrating them. Which is exactly why we bring you #MySocietyPride. The premise of this initiative is simple. Tell us about the welfare measures that your society has implemented during the lockdown and we will feature the best ones in the Times of India. Scan the QR code or visit www.toi.in/mysocietypride to share the details.

And while we would all be thrilled to welcome back the Mumbai we knew—a maximum city chugging on the adrenaline of enterprise, teeming with opportunities and forever steeped in the scents of street food—it looks like we will have to treat the journey ahead as a marathon and not a sprint. Meanwhile, the city's societies can draw on the lessons learnt from the past year, so that the new normal can be just as joyous and promising as the old one. TNN



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