

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Members,

As the nation united to prevent the spread of the Corona virus with various measures, we trust all our dear Members and your Near and Dear ones are well and safe.

We are facing an unprecedented global crisis arising out of the Corona virus pandemic which had to be taken seriously by all. Many of us have been affected in one way or the other, be it emotionally, psychologically or financially. We face critical days going forward. Our Government and the City of Mumbai responded with speed, efficiently and effectively by cancelling public events, closure of schools, pools, theatres, auditoriums and gymnasiums which was subsequently followed by a total lock down.

In light of the directives from the Government and the Health Advisory cautioning against mass gatherings, Catholic Gymkhana was constrained to take a snap decision cancelling several popular events such as Members Nite, Housie, and Karaoke Nights. All actioned with the interests of Members and the Institution.

The Gymkhana was in full swing to MARCH ahead with power packed activities when the lock down was enforced. Regrettably, we had to cancel the much-awaited talk by popular demand of Members on Geriatrics and Specialised care of Senior Citizens by the eminent Dr Naganath Narasimhan Prem, Chief Consultant Geriatric Medicine, Jaslok Hospital. This topic assumed significant importance during the Corona Virus pandemic. Most of you may have heard Dr Prem present his views on the various TV channel debates. We will use the contact of our Communications and Advertising Guru Mr. Roger Pereira, who had arranged this talk for the Gymkhana, to get Dr Prem to speak to us on this absorbing topic in future.

Our Housie Committee had planned a Bumper Easter Housie with mind boggling prizes to be grabbed. This was to be followed by a fun filled Easter Dance organised by the Entertainment Committee to set your feet afire. The much awaited Gymkhana Day celebrations had also to be cancelled. Plans went topsy turvy for all. Health and Safety took precedence over all plans. We will swing into action when the lock down on Gymkhanas is lifted.

When a pandemic occurs people get scared, think of the worst and try to think of dramatic ways to stay safe. However, what is really important is to remain calm, informed and engage in virus protection as best you can. In light of the precautionary measures implemented by the government, social distancing assumed paramount importance, thereby allowing us to stay in contact with you in the comfort of your home.

Most of you would be aware through reports in the press and via social media that several institutions, clubs, gymkhanas, schools, colleges and hotel premises have been requisitioned by the authorities to set up Covid Care Centres as the availability of Private and Government Hospital beds are not adequate to treat a pandemic of the size we face in this city. All the Gymkhanas in line with us were surveyed on three occasions by various authorities and our Gymkhana is now converted into a CCC2 centre to house Asymptomatic Positive patients in the Grand Hall.

Supporting the efforts of the Authorities was a natural choice for Catholic Gymkhana to follow.

The Managing Committee is totally committed to support the ongoing efforts of the Government and the Health Authorities in whatever way we can contribute towards their efforts to fight this pandemic. I am confident that the Members will agree with our decision to stand united and support this humanitarian cause.

We at the Gymkhana hope and pray that all individuals admitted to the Gymkhana for treatment and care will leave the premises completely cured. Patients and their family will remember the Gymkhana forever which in turn will bring Showers of Blessings to the institution.

I take this opportunity to thank our Labour Advisor, Advocate Lancy D'Souza for the unstinted support he extends to the Gymkhana. I wish to thank our Vice-President Rajesh D'Souza, Hon. General Secretary Norbert Pereira and the Managing Committee legal member Advocate Bernado Reis. A special word of acknowledgment and appreciation for the time and invaluable efforts put in by our Hon. Treasurer Sanju Fernandes. The positive and unanimous support of the Managing Committee Members to help steer the Catholic Gymkhana in the right direction in these challenging times, is noteworthy.

Thank you one and all.

Let us not panic, let us be prudent. Take care. Stay safe and keep well. Hope to meet all of you at the Gymkhana once things are back to normal.

With all good wishes,

VERNON MIRANDA
President



Beds specially made out of cardboard being used in the Grand hall to treat patients

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