

# THE BEACON

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## Mumbai struggles as rain gods smile

Jesly Pulikotil

**MUMBAI:** The flood situation in Mumbai is so bad now that locals cannot distinguish between the land and the sea along Marine Drive. Even the stray animals are trying to kill each other and vermin for food.

Anushka Agarwal, a student from the neighborhood spoke about the situation: "Heavy rain has taken a toll around South Mumbai. The nearest hospital is flooded, hindering daily functions. Roofs of houses have been destroyed by the wind. Water levels aren't receding.

She added: "Older buildings around the Fort area are cracking, which may be dangerous in the near future. I wonder what's happening



A view of the downpour

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with stray animals if humans are suffering like this. My pet dog Caleb is scared of both

indoors and outdoors."

She added: "Lack of electricity and poor

telecommunication network connectivity have made it difficult for students like me

to attend online classes. The professors and students across the city are finding it difficult to get a steady connection. We are logging in and out all the time."

Adnan Motiwala, a local resident said: "Markets around Mumbai Central are in a bad condition. Freshly stocked goods are of no use anymore. Lots of trees have uprooted around here."

Craigston Fernandes another local resident explained, "Everyone is finding it difficult to survive. Water levels around Wadala are not receding. The ground has already absorbed a lot of water; it can't take anymore.

He added: "We have less rain now, and relief workers are trying their best to help make the situation better."

## Kerala flood warnings panic students

Nandita Narayanan

**KOCHI (KERALA):** With Kerala predicted to see its third major flooding in recent years, school and college students currently stuck here are now anxious as try to cope with the pandemic as well as the deluge.

Honey Sebastian, an undergraduate from Idukki, explained the difficulties of staying in a danger zone.

"I've been attending online classes. However it's quite a hassle to keep up with the coursework due to frequent power cuts and network issues," she said. "Unless we are permitted by the health officials to travel from adversely affected wards, contacting our relatives seems impossible."

Neha Mahesh, who studies in a Bengaluru college but is home now, is worried about appearing for her examinations and the attendance system her college follows. Currently in Kannur, Mahesh is fighting the havoc wreaked by the continuous downpours.

"It is very difficult to call up a repairman to fix appliances that break down during the storms. Unfortunately, not all households are equipped with power backup. All in all, these are trying times, over which we have little control," she said.

## Airport portal lets flyers request quarantine relief

Riya Joseph

**F**lyers coming to India now have the option to get relief from the mandatory quarantine period, with Delhi International Airport setting up a portal that allows them to apply for it via a self-declaration form.

The portal will be operational from August 8, and ensures the transition to a completely contact-free travel experience for travellers and staff.

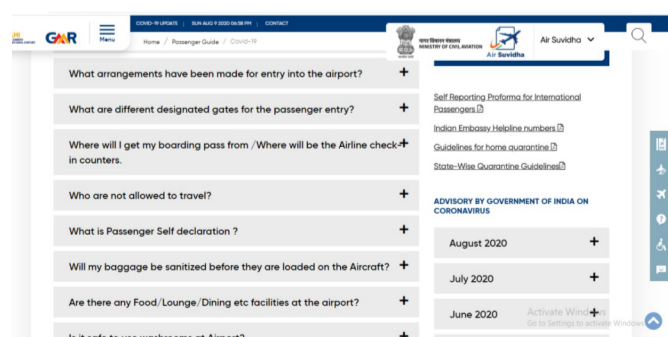
Travellers requesting relief from quarantine will have to provide supporting documents — including a copy of their passport — along with the application form at least 72 hours in advance. There is no such time restriction for the self-declaration form.

The exemption is only available for passengers meeting the requirements set

forth by the Delhi International Airport Authority. These include pregnant women, passengers facing a death in the family, those with a serious illness, parents accompanying children below 10 years of age, and travellers who have obtained a Covid-negative certificate from a test done 96 hours prior to the flight.

"It's been a while since international repatriation service resumed in India. Passengers are planning to travel for various reasons on limited international flights during the pandemic," said Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) Joint Secretary Usha Padhee.

"MoCA appreciates Delhi Airport's contribution in helping digitise and streamline this process of health self-declaration and exempting passengers," she added.



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## Now, get Netflix in Hindi

Shahul Hameed

**N**etflix has launched a user interface in Hindi. Subscribers who prefer the language can now easily discover, access and enjoy Indian and international series and films by browsing the platform in Hindi.

Although, there is no official statement on this yet, Netflix subscribers can already use it.

The language can be enabled under 'Manage Profiles' on mobile and TV



Representational Image

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apps, as well as on the webpage. The Hindi interface is now available all over the globe.

Netflix currently is available in 26 languages, including English, Japanese, Korean, Italian and French.

## Covid-19, lockdown curtails festive fervour

Abhimanyu Sharma

**KOTA (RAJASTHAN):** Be it Holi, Raksha Bandhan or Eid, festivals have had the wind driven out of their sails thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown across the country, say the people who celebrate them.

Ashad Hussain, a businessman from Kota, said this year Eid felt incomplete.

"We didn't get to pray with our brethren. We couldn't even meet them. It was very disheartening, but we know what's necessary right now," he said, admitting that he might not like how things are



Representational Image

Abhimanyu Sharma

right now, but he knows his priorities: to be safe and keep others safe.

"This was my first Raksha

Bandhan when I couldn't visit my sister. I missed her a lot," said Abhishek Mishra, who was stuck in Kota

because of the lockdown.

He said he felt and awful for not being with his sister, as it was the only day they have always been together.

Even events related to celebrations — like the Jaipur Teej Mela and Ram Navami processions — getting cancelled have dampened sentiments.

Sushil Sharma, a senior citizen said with sorrow, "Our family always used to celebrate gangaur poojan together, it was like our own tradition but nobody could come this time". He added that it's difficult living alone in this age and that he wished he could see his family soon.