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THIS STORY IS FROM JULY 17, 2013

Cholera count climbs to 16, gastro grounds 1,300 patients

TNN | Updated: Jul 16, 2013, 18:47 IST

[\(/articleshowprint/21113575.cms\)](#)



MUMBAI: [Waterborne diseases](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Waterborne-diseases) continue to ail Mumbaikars as eight more [cholera](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/cholera) cases have been detected in the past seven days. Gastroenteritis, too, has seen an overwhelming rise at more than 1,300 cases in the first 15 days of July.

Lately, several patients suffering from acute gastroenteritis have suffered renal failure, requiring dialysis.

Manisha Mhaiskar, BMC's additional municipal commissioner, said, "There has been a visible increase in cases of cholera and gastroenteritis. We have 16 cases of cholera in all. The fresh cases are from the same areas where the previous ones were reported." Mhaiskar added that volunteers have been collecting water samples.

A doctor from J J Hospital said, "We transferred some cholera patients to Kasturba as instructed, but not less than 30 patients have got treated in our infectious ward."

Close to 3,000 people were hospitalized due to fever. Typhoid and hepatitis, too, are on the rise in Umerkhadi, Kalbadevi, Govandi, Mankhurd, Lower Parel, Mahalaxmi and Chembur.

Malaria has been under control despite heavy rains. Dengue, though, is on the rise. "Our volunteers will approach around 90,000 housing societies and teach them how to make their homes dengue-free," said Mhaiskar. "Every home is a potential breeding spot as the dengue mosquito has a limited flight."

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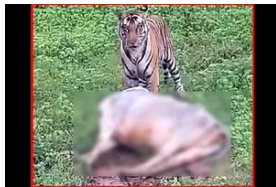
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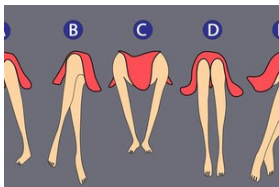
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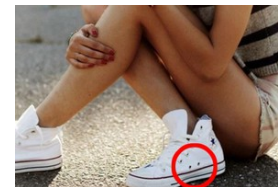
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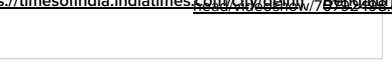
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Mumbai braces for a wet spell

Pratibha Masand (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Pratibha-Masand-479208044.cms>) | TNN | Updated: Jul 16, 2013, 18:41 IST ([/articleshowprint/21113573.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/mumbai/braces-for-a-wet-spell/articleshow/21113573.cms))



MUMBAI: The city may have received little rainfall since last Friday, but the situation is likely to change in the next two days. The meteorology department has forecast heavy showers in parts of Konkan and Goa. Mumbai, too, is likely to receive a few good showers in the next 48 hours.

The met department has said that in the next two days, a few climatic systems will come together to cause heavy rainfall in certain areas. "There is an existing offshore trough stretching from Gujarat to Kerala coast. There is also an upper air cyclonic circulation over Madhya Pradesh," said N Y Apte, deputy director general of the [Indian Meteorological Department \(https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Indian-Meteorological-Department\)](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Indian-Meteorological-Department) (IMD), Mumbai.

Ajay Kumar, meteorologist from IMD, Mumbai, said, "There is a low pressure area north west of Bay of Bengal and another one over Gangetic West Bengal and North Orissa. Though there has been an offshore trough on the western coast, it is feeble. Together these are likely to bring rainfall over Maharashtra and Konkan regions."

On Tuesday, though, the city got little rainfall. Between 8:30am and 5:30pm, Colaba recorded 5mm and Santa Cruz 8.7mm. A few other areas-especially those in the suburbs-got a little more rainfall. Gawanpada, for instance, recorded 38.6mm rainfall by Tuesday evening. Deonar got 35.3mm, Mulund 29.9mm whereas Vile Parle and Kandivli got 28.1mm and 26.9mm, respectively.

Temperatures, too, were normal with Colaba and Santa Cruz recording 29 degree Celsius and 29.3 degree Celsius during the day, respectively. Humidity levels were understandably high with Colaba and Santa Cruz recording 95% and 92%, respectively, on Tuesday evening.

Till now, Colaba has already received 1,281.1mm of rainfall and thus covered about 58% of the annual average of 2,220mm. Santa Cruz has got 1,334.2mm or over 51% of the annual 2,598mm.

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MUMBAI: Fixing [potholes](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/potholes) with paver blocks appears to be latest trend this monsoon, though experts rue that the practice defies engineering logic. Paver blocks come loose within two-three days, ensuring motorists a nightmarish ride, especially so during peak hours, they say.

These potholes resurface within a few days of the "damage-control exercise" as asphalt, concrete and paver blocks do not hold during rains.

An independent expert who works closely with the government said, "Paver blocks are a makeshift arrangement during heavy showers. Only if the repair team maintains them every other day, can this temporary arrangement work. If they come loose, mishaps are likely; they are even more dangerous for bikers." The one benefit, he said, is that paver blocks help stop a pothole from widening.

While a senior technocrat with the public works department (PWD) admitted that this method of fixing potholes may be illogical, he added that paver blocks are being chosen as a temporary measure in the "absence of an alternative".

TOI observed fixing of a pothole with paver blocks on Chheda Nagar flyover on Monday (see pic). This spot is maintained by [Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Maharashtra-State-Road-Development-Corporation) (MSRDC)'s contractor, Mumbai Entry Point Toll Ltd (MEP).

MEP chief executive officer Kiran Pangaonkar called this a temporary measure and assured that "as soon as we have a dry spell, we will fill all these potholes with bitumen and a proper hot mix by removing the paver blocks".

A senior MSRDC official defended the use of paver blocks by saying that the other cement-based fixing materials currently in the market are not cost-effective. The cost of fixing potholes with these materials would be equal to re-carpeting a major stretch of a road, he said.

"We think concretizing all roads and maintaining flyovers properly with high-quality asphalt are the only solutions. Government firms cannot afford new technology and materials to fix potholes."

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Suresh Kamath (<http://mytimes.indiatimes.com/profile/suresh190149>)

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Ban on dance bars in Mumbai 'reflects lack of thinking'

Dhananjay Mahapatra <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Dhananjay-Mahapatra-18127.cms> | TNN | Updated: Jul 17, 2013, 0:48 IST

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NEW DELHI: The dancing girls will be back in the [beer bars of Mumbai](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/beer-bars-of-Mumbai), with the [Supreme Court](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/supreme-court-of-india) on Tuesday upholding Bombay high court's verdict to junk Maharashtra government's decision to banish them from the city's famous night life.

Though the state government can put curbs on dance bars to prevent obscenity if it so wishes, the order is seen as a setback to Maharashtra home minister R R Patil , who pursued the ban virtually as a personal mission, and will be cheered by many who saw the ban as overzealous moral policing.

A bench of Chief Justice Altamas Kabir and justice S S Nijjar said the state government's 2005 decision to amend the Bombay [beer bars of Mumbai](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/beer-bars-of-mumbai) [ban on dance bars in Mumbai](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/ban-on-dance-bars-in-mumbai) [ensuring safety of women](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/ensuring-safety-of-women) [potholes](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/potholes) [on-dance-bars-in-Mumbai-reflects-lack-thinking](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/on-dance-bars-in-mumbai-reflects-lack-thinking)

(https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Cholera-count-climbs-to-16-gastro-grounds-1300-patients/articleshow/21113575.cms) search for viable alternatives, and resulted in large-scale joblessness among women.

“The restrictions in the nature of prohibition cannot be said to be reasonable, inasmuch as there could be several lesser alternatives available which would have been adequate to ensure safety of women than to completely prohibit dance. In fact, a large number of imaginative alternative steps could be taken instead of completely prohibiting dancing, if the real concern of the state is the safety of women,” Nijjar said, authoring the main judgment.

Agreeing with him, Kabir said the expression “the cure is worse than the disease” came to mind immediately as many dance girls who lost their livelihood because of the complete ban on dance bars had been forced into prostitution.

“The state has to provide alternative means of support and shelter to persons engaged in such trades or professions, some of whom are trafficked from different parts of the country and have nowhere to go or earn a living after coming out of their unfortunate circumstances,” the CJI said, while suggested putting in place a “strong and effective support system” for them.

Rejecting the state government’s appeal against the 2006 judgment of the high court, the court said instead of a complete ban on dance girls in pubs and bars, the state could consider the alternative suggestions made by a state-appointed committee like banning dance girls from exposing body or wearing tight and provocative clothes during performances.

The committee had also suggested keeping customers in the pubs and bars away from the dance girls by erecting railings around the dance floor which should be a minimum of 10x12 feet accommodating a maximum eight dancers, no showering of money by customers on dancers and a register maintaining the name of each dance girl engaged at the bar.

The court said the state promulgated the 2005 ban on dance girls despite the fact that no authority was asked to take steps to implement the suggestions of the committee and urged the government that “it would be more appropriate to bring about measures which would ensure the safety and improve the working conditions of the persons working as bar girls”.

“The discontinuance of bar dancing in establishments below the rank of three star establishments has led to the closure of a large number of establishments, which has resulted in loss of employment for about 75,000 women employed in the dance bars in various capacities,” Kabir said.

“In fact, as has also been commented upon by my brother (Nijjar), many of these unfortunate people were forced into prostitution merely to survive, as they had no other means of survival,” the CJI said, describing that the closed dance bars presented a Hobson’s choice to the girls who lost employment.

“From the material placed before us and the statistics shown, it is apparent that many of the bar dancers have no other option as they have no other skills, with which they could earn a living. Though some of the women engaged in bar dancing may be doing so as a matter of choice, not very many women would willingly resort to bar dancing as a profession,” the CJI said.



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