A horse keeper plays with his horse at Sarasbaug Park amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Pune city.

Pune, India: A horse keeper plays with his horse at Sarasbaug Park amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Pune city.

PHOTOGRAPHS & CAPTIONS BY JIGNESH MISTRY
As the economy tries to get back up on its feet, the stories of resilience run across demographics. From sex workers to business owners, the pandemic has, albeit disproportionately, brought a storm of economic concern in the lives of the people.

Amidst uncertainty and naive optimism, all economic actors are responding differently. As gym owners protest and demand the re-opening of gyms and unions fight for job security, hotels breathe a sigh of relief with permission being granted for hotels to reopen. Migrant workers rush back home, local businesses get back up on their feet and sex workers find aid in the hands of NGOs. After 7 months of the pandemic, some journeys of struggle and hardships are reaching a sweet end, while some are reaching a climax.
Pune, India- Shops remains closed at Khadki Cantonment Board area due to rising Covid-19 cases in Pune city on July 09, 2020

Pune, India - Carts at Sanjay Gandhi Vegetable as market remains closed at Khadki Cantonment Board area.
Parantwadi, India- A Gardner watches burnt rose flowers at a rose nursery at Parantwadi village, Maval district (near Pune city). The export quality rose flowers are plucked from the polyhouse daily and are thrown away due to the COVID 19 Pandemic conditions.

Pune, India - Workers travel with belongings on a tractor on the Mumbai-Banglore Highway in the Warje area in Pune city on June 02, 2020.
Pune, India- Staff at JW Marriott hotel disinfect property at the hotel in Pune city on August 04, 2020. Pune Municipal Corporation(PMC) orders reopening of Hotels, guest houses and lodges in Pune city limits with 33 percent occupancy from August 05th.

Pune, India- Deserted premises of Phoenix Market City Mall at Viman nagar on Ahmednagar road in Pune city on Monday, June 08, 2020.
Pune, India- A vendor sells masks and face shields at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Parvati area, a Containment Zone in Pune city.

Pune, India- A worker repairs a horse carriage in a Containment Zone at Deccan gymkhana amid COVID-19 pandemic.
Kamshet, India- Shanta Jadhav (53) gathers plastic sheets in a rose poly house damaged due Cyclone Nisarga amid Covid-19 Pandemic at Vadivale village in Kamshet near Lonavala on June 04, 2020

Pune, India- Masks with Super heroes and cartoon characters printed are put on sale at a sports shop in Narayanpeth.
Pune, India- Members of Pune Fitness Club Association protest at Pune Municipal corporation to start the Gyms in Pune district.

Pune, India- Members of Maharashtra Vij Kantrati Kangar Sangh, a contract labour union, protest in a ‘Warkari’ (devotee) attire announcing statewide strike for permanent jobs outside MSEB’s Prakash Bhavan at Senapati Bapat Road on the occasion of Ashadhi Ekadashi in Pune city on July 01, 2020.

Pune, India- Members of Pune Fitness Club Association protest at Pune Municipal corporation to start the Gyms in Pune district.
Pune, India- Members of a Social group along with Saheli NGO hand over dry ration sacks to sex workers in Budhwarpeth redlight area in Pune city on June 23, 2020. The Dry Ration was distributed to 2000 sex workers and their families living in 400 brothels in budhwarpeth.

Pune, India- Sex workers along with their children stand in a queue to get token for food grains distributed by social workers at Budhwarpeth redlight area in Pune city on June 23, 2020.

Pune, India- Daily wage migrant workers register as they wait for the buses to depart at Katraj chowk in Pune city on May 16, 2020.
Each narrative of resilience tells a different story; some of gracious help at the 11th hour, some of a ray of hope, and some of bravery and courage in voicing dissent. In an amalgamation of hope and despair, communities are coming together to unitedly face the storm; be it NGOs stepping up, unions setting to the streets or migrant workers taking the same bus back home. As the pandemic plays out, these stories are yet to finish.
JIGNESH MISTRY is a Pune-based freelance photojournalist. He has been in the field for over 10 years. He started his career as a nightshift news photographer at a daily tabloid during his graduation. Since then, his work has been published at multiple magazines, wire agencies and national newspapers. He is also involved in undertaking photography workshops for students in academic institutions. Currently, he is engaged with the PAIGAM network and is a regular contributor at The Hindu, The Press Trust of India and the International Wire Agencies.

PAIGAM (People’s Association In Grassroots Action and Movement) is an aggregator of activists, researchers, practitioners and organisations that aims to bring together social efforts at the local, national and global levels through media advocacy and action research. They wish to bring a seamless bridge between academia, activism, policy and public through our media, advocacy, research, grassroots fellowship and mobilization channels.

TEXT BY:
ADVAITA SINGH is a Research Analyst at the Centre for New Economics Studies.