



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

REPORT OF NAGAR'S ACTIVITIES (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020)

The NAGAR report for the financial year **April 01, 2019 – March 31, 2020** comprises, as always, its own work and the work it has done in affiliation with others.

1. Hawker matter and Illegal Parking:

NAGAR did an on-site photo documentation of unauthorised hawking done within 100 metres from places of worship, educational institutions and hospitals and within 150 metres from municipal markets and railway station. As per the Bombay High Court order dated November 01, 2017, at the aforementioned areas hawking is prohibited and hence, are to be declared as No-Hawking zones.

NAGAR surveyed areas like Elphinstone and Parel railway stations from G/South and F/ south ward, Dadar railway station from G/north ward, Matunga railway station from F/north ward, KEM and Wadia hospitals from F/north ward and educational institutes and municipal markets around the areas mentioned above.

Illegal hawking on-site findings:

- Illegal hawking continued despite the "no-hawking" zone signboards put up by the MCGM.
- signboards were quite misleading as to whether it was a 'hawking' or a 'no hawking' zone.
- The footpaths outside the Municipal markets were encroached by illegal hawkers
- see illegal hawkers cooking at the gates of Sion hospital using huge stoves

NAGAR compiled a report of this survey and submitted the report to the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM, who is also the Chairman of the Town Vending Committee (TVC) and to its members for prompt action. The TVC took note of the report at its meeting and the Chair directed it to the concerned ward officials for necessary action.

TVC meetings

The MCGM License Department proposed Street Vending Byelaws u/s 37 of the Street Vendors Act, 2014 and invited suggestions from the members of the Central Town Vending Committee. The central TVC has finalised the Hawking zones per ward within the city. The Hawker pitches are being marked in the hawking zones. Hawker licences will be issued soon. At the Zonal level, information was disseminated regarding eligible hawkers, hawking zones and hawkers' pitches and newly proposed hawker applications which have been uploaded on the MCGM website.

NAGAR, also, did an on-site photo documentation of illegal parking.

Findings are as below:

- Many motorbikes, private cars and taxis parked in the no parking area, near the "No Parking" signboard
- Distance between the "No parking" signboards was too little, i.e. on a stretch of a 500m road there were around 5-6 such boards, leading to a visual clutter and quite unnecessary. One signage for 200m is sufficient.
- There are very few signages stating the penalty/ fine charged for illegal parking, (i.e. Rs. 10,000), for causing nuisance and also about towing charges up to Rs. 23,250.
- Though there is a provision of Municipal Public Parking Lot (PPL) near railway stations, vehicles were seen parked on the opposite footpath.

2. Public Open Spaces:

NAGAR wrote to Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM on May 23, 2019 regarding the formulation of public open spaces policy. NAGAR reiterated that the public open spaces need urgent attention and must be protected, conserved and maintained for the period of 20 years of the Development Plan, i.e. from the year 2014 to 2034, in retrospective effective from the date of sanction. This would need a water-tight open spaces policy in place. It was proposed that a Municipal Ward Level Committee should be constituted having members from the

authorities as well as civil society in the form of local stakeholders. Such a Committee should consist of the Assistant Municipal Commissioner (Ward Officer), one ward official of the garden department, the Deputy Municipal Commissioner (concerned Zone), the local Corporator in whose jurisdiction the public open space falls and a maximum of 3 representatives of local resident associations / Advanced Locality Management group (ALMs) and non-government organisations (NGOs).

A meeting was convened at the Municipal Commissioner's office on August 27, 2019 to discuss on various issues like public parking lots, public open spaces, urban forestry, solid waste management, rainwater harvesting, waste-water treatment and so on. NAGAR was invited to give inputs on public open spaces policy. The Municipal Commissioner affirmatively spoke on adoption of public open spaces by NGOs, Trusts and civil societies for a period of 11 years and ordered the Superintendent of Gardens to get the paved walkways in all the gardens removed with immediate effect.

As an outcome of this meeting, a Garden Experts Group was formed on WhatsApp (a mobile application) for faster communication and swift action among the members of the group. This group includes the Superintendent of Gardens, Deputy Superintendent of Gardens, other government officials, ward level officials, environmentalists, experts in urban forestry, NAGAR representatives. The purpose of this group is to provide inputs on replicable models to restore public open spaces, draft water-tight policy for public open spaces, prepare an action plan, set achievable targets and keep the members updated on implementation. NAGAR has prepared a case study of how a public open space be adopted and maintained. Also, it has drafted recommendations for public open spaces policy. This group met on August 03, 2019, where NAGAR discussed with the Superintendent of Gardens, MCGM and other MCGM officials, certain key indicators for the policy. It emphasized that all public open spaces should be based on the 4 principles (as stated before). The officials assured the group that no construction would be done in gardens, except for paved pathways, which will be permeable, and a 10'x10' *Mali* hut. However, the officials stated that the existing gymnasiums will be allowed on RGs.

Considering NAGAR's inputs, the Joint Commissioner (Vigilance), MCGM invited NAGAR on August 27, 2019 to discuss on the important points concerning public open spaces that can be incorporated in the draft policy. It gave recommendations to the MCGM for the Adoption Policy on Open Spaces along with three case studies, as on August 03, 2019. MCGM's final policy is yet to be published.

NAGAR also responded to the MCGM's notification PRO/681/ADV/2019-20 published in the Times of India on August 03, 2019, seeking suggestions for a new Gardens' policy concerning the maintenance and upkeep of all Public Open Spaces. The letter emphasized that the 4 mandatory principles must be followed for conserving reserved Public Open Spaces. The suggestions included that the reserved Public Open Spaces should have facilities and features like a Mali hut to store gardening equipment, a water pump, electricity and water meters, a spatial fence with a low kerb wall and the plantation be of native/indigenous plant species. Pathways, if planned, must have interlocking paver blocks, set and laid out properly on tamped earth. Existing resources like water connections, lighting, benches should be maintained and utilized well. Vermicomposting of garden waste can be permitted. NAGAR also stressed on the need to prohibit certain activities in these spaces. For instance, no commercial activities should be allowed; no billboards or advertisement boards must be allowed in POSs or on the fence; no entry to or parking of vehicles inside the facility, except those authorised for the maintenance of the POSs.

New timings for MCGM Gardens

A circular was issued on August 27, 2019 by the MCGM stating that all MCGM gardens will be kept open from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00p.m. Apart from this circular, on a pilot basis, one garden from each ward would be kept open 24x7. Later, such a list of 23 gardens was published on MCGM's Facebook page.

Visit to MCGM Gardens

NAGAR visited a few of the gardens from G/South, G/North, F/North and H/West respectively to review the gardens open 24x7 and submitted its feedback to the MCGM. NAGAR interacted with the citizens frequently visiting the gardens and the

security guards and *Malis* looking after these spaces. On-site photos of the status of these gardens is available with NAGAR.

Letters for Suggestions and Objections

'Proposal to construct parking lots under open spaces'.

NAGAR wrote to Ms. Manisha Patankar, Principal Secretary (UD-II), Govt. of Maharashtra and Mr. Nitin Kareer Principal Secretary (UD-I) stating that the MCGM's proposal to construct parking lots under public open spaces is a disservice to the city of Mumbai. One of the prime characteristics of a public open space includes its non-buildable nature (above and below ground), which would be defeated by concrete slab below the ground. To support its view NAGAR quoted the Supreme Court Order on Civil Appeal No. 1150 of 2013 that states *"Recreational Spaces are intended to ensure that there are green breathing spaces between lands and properties in the built-up environment"*

'Proposal for Metro Bhavan and Metro rail allied users at Aarey colony'.

NAGAR wrote to the Deputy Director of Town Planning objecting to the construction of Metro Bhavan and Metro rail allied users at Aarey colony. The key points raised by NAGAR were that Aarey Colony, with its dense green cover admeasuring about 16 square kilometres in area, remains one of the few regions in the city, which protects it from further environmental degradation, and therefore, any proposal which threatens its depletion must not be considered. On what should be the governments' priorities, new development projects or quality of life for its citizens, NAGAR suggested that the government needs to consider the ecological value of the scarce open spaces now left in the city, especially the huge ones like Aarey, before planning any developmental projects.

'Proposal for Underground Pay and Park, at Patwardhan Park, Bandra'.

NAGAR cited reasons for the non-feasibility and inadvisability of this project. These reasons included the value of permeability in a public open space. NAGAR also expressed concern over possible removal of existing public parking lots in private residential/commercial buildings, built with incentive FSI being provided to owners/developers. It was suggested that MCGM should check if there are any

existing underutilized private parking lots in the surrounding area of the park that can be used for parking instead.

'Objection to Proposed Construction of Two Buildings on Existing Reserved Public Open Space at Gulmohar Road – Tilak Udyan, Juhu'

Due to construction of Metro 2B elevated corridor, the rehabilitation of Project Affected People (PAP) was to be done on Tilak Udyan, Juhu. In response to that, on July 02, 2019, NAGAR wrote to Municipal Commissioner, MCGM (a copy of the document was sent to MMRDA & MHADA) strongly objecting that this is an encroachment on an existing public open space. BMC Improvement Committee has already stated that the said proposal indicates lack of proper planning and execution for such a proposal sets a dangerous precedent. Also the Chief Minister assured citizens, in March 2018, that the DP-2034 would not compromise on open space. Citing dismal per capita POS ratio, it was stated that the responsibility of the authorities concerned – MMRDA, MHADA and MCGM – is to act in the interest of all citizens. Hence, MMRDA and MHADA can both plan for rehabilitation of the PAP, but on lands under their jurisdiction and not on existing public open spaces

'Objection to the modification in designation of Playground in the Sanctioned DP.'

The MCGM issued a notification on 22.11.2019 proposing modifications in the Sanctioned DP 2034 under section 37(1) of M.R.T.P. Act 1966 to change the designation of EOS 1.4 (Existing Play Ground) on land bearing C.T.S. No. 559/C/03 of village Kanheri to EOS 1.4 (Existing Open space - Play Ground with the additional use of Swimming Pool). With reference to this, NAGAR submitted its objections to the Chief Engineer, DP on 20.12.2019 stating that the proposed modification allowing any kind of buildable structure on an open space is unacceptable. Construction of a swimming pool on playground will change the character of the public open space. It will compromise the tenets of POS as they should be accessible, non-buildable, permeable and open to sky. NAGAR also quoted from the MCGM's existing Open space policy (SG/MC 2315/ Dated 12.16.2015) that '*Open Spaces cannot be used for any commercial activities and cannot have any kind of structure built or constructed on it*'.

In response to its objection letter, the Chief Engineer (DP) invited NAGAR for a hearing on the matter. NAGAR presented its views at the hearing and the officials noted the same.

Urban Forestry

Presentations were made by experts Mr. Shubhendu Sharma (Afforest) and Ms. Natasha Zarine (Eco Sattva) at a meeting held in the Chambers of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM, where Mr. Sharma spoke about Miyawaki method of urban forestry and the work done by his organization for cultivating and maintaining urban forests. Ms. Zarine stated that they have worked on Miyawaki native dense forests, ecoscapes and pilots in ecological *nala* restoration. It was decided that urban forests would be grown in vacant spaces at the corners of roads, and vacant plots as well as along the sides of existing *nalas*.

NAGAR filed an application under RTI to identify sites to be developed as Urban Forests by the MCGM. A list of such POSs and area that will be consumed under urban forestry have been provided by the MCGM. The list consists of site location, area of the park/site, area to be covered under plantation and no. of trees to be planted. NAGAR visited Colaba Woods garden (A ward) to examine the Miyawaki Plantation done on site and understand the MCGM's idea and method of urban forestry.

RTI seeking details of the existing / built gymnasiums:

NAGAR objected to any kind of construction on Public Open Spaces. To ensure that they remain non-buildable, it filed an application under RTI seeking details of the existing / built gymnasiums on land area designated as Public Open Spaces in the DP 1991 and DP 2034 on September 19, 2019. We received a response from Zones (I, II, III, V & VI), but none from Zone IV & Zone VII. Zone IV (Ward P north, P south, R central, R north and R south) & VII (Ward P N, S and T) have redirected the application.

There are gymnasiums built by MHADA on two MCGM owned PGs in R/North ward and one MCGM owned PG in H/East ward. C ward has four POS consisting gymnasiums and D ward has one. There are no gymnasiums on POSs in E ward.

No information is available with the H/West, L, F/North and N ward offices. Rest of the 18 wards are yet to respond.

3. Development Plan:

Public Notifications

Modification in DP 2034 for Metro 2B line

A public notification was published by the Urban Development Department (UDD), Govt. of Maharashtra, for modification of reserved plots in Villages Mandale and Turbhe, for 'Allied Users' and 'Commercial with reference to the Metro 2B line, which would require more area than the reserved Metro Car Depot. A Reserved Public Open Space, as well as a Police Chowky would be deleted.

NAGAR strongly objected to this, citing the dearth of Public Open Space in the ward (ME), questioned to the misuse of Section 37(1AA) of the MRTP Act, 1966 for this purpose. This Section is intended for urgent modifications in public interest. However, this modification is not urgently required especially given that the DP-2034 was recently sanctioned after deliberating for almost 5 years and this modification is an afterthought and certainly, not in public interest.

Coastal Zone Management Plans

NAGAR submitted suggestions and objections to the draft Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) of Mumbai City & Mumbai Suburban District under CRZ Notification, 2019 to the Environment department, MCZMA. NAGAR raised concerns such as reduction in area falling under CRZ II, illegible maps, No demarcation of Koliwadass (Local fisher communities), illustrative mistakes in maps and legends etc.

4. Heritage:

A. Rejuvenation of the Forts of Mumbai

NAGAR prepared a report on forts of Mumbai along with a layout proposal, with the details for conservation of six forts and its peripheral areas, those are Worli, Bandra, Sewri, Sion, Dharavi and Mahim. NAGAR proposed that these forts be conserved under the guidance of an eminent conservation architect; where the immediate surroundings of the monument be regularly cleaned, the design for

landscaping, signage and street furniture be suitable to the site. The periphery of the forts would not only act as a recreational space for visitors but also form a foreground and buffer for the fort.

Meeting with the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra.

NAGAR met with Dr. Tejas Garge (Director, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Maharashtra) regarding NAGAR's design proposals for the rejuvenation of the peripheral areas of the forts at Sewri and Worli. Dr. Tejas Garge liked all the proposals and said he would speak with the Mumbai Port Trust officials for Sewri Fort and the officials in the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for Worli fort so that the proposal can be taken ahead.

Meeting with Municipal Commissioner, MCGM

NAGAR approached Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM, to discuss "Rejuvenation of Forts of Greater Mumbai". The meeting took place on September 27, 2019. At this meeting was held in attendance with Dr. Tejas Garge (Director, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums), Assistant Municipal Commissioners – Mr. S. N. Ughade (H/West), Mr. Devendra Kumar Jain (G/South), Mr. Kiran Dighavkar (G/North) and Mr. G. V. Bellale (F/North).

NAGAR submitted a copy of its report on "A Rejuvenation Plan for the Historic Forts of Mumbai". A separate detailed proposal for rejuvenation of peripheral areas of forts at Sewri and Worli was submitted as well. The Municipal Commissioner appreciated the work described and documented in NAGAR's report and accepted its proposal to design the landscape and signages for the six forts. He asked NAGAR to coordinate with the ward officers and other concerned officials at the ward level to take the project ahead. He also introduced NAGAR to the Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) and asked NAGAR to get in touch with the concerned officials at MbPT for rejuvenation of the Sewri fort.

At the meeting, the Municipal Commissioner informed those present that NAGAR would design signages aesthetic signages suited to the monument and suggest

material durable for at least 5 years. The content for the signage would be provided by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums. He accepted the suggestion by NAGAR that all signages should be designed to make the areas accessible to persons with disabilities, as per the Person with Disabilities Act, which is binding on public services of any kind.

NAGAR sent a record note of this meeting via email to the Municipal Commissioner and to all the concerned Assistant Commissioners present at the meeting. NAGAR met the Assistant Commissioners (G/North, G/South, H/West, F/North and F/south) where the six forts are located and the concerned ward officials at these wards at a follow up visit.

Visit to Ward offices and the Fort sites

Worli Fort, G south ward

NAGAR visited the Worli Fort along with the Executive Engineer and other officials from the Garden department, G/South Ward. The officials examined the buffer area around the fort, took note of the existing encroachment around it and then discussed with us what the rejuvenation plan should entail. They suggested that the directional signages can be put up at the starting point from the main road towards the fort. NAGAR submitted its scope of work for the Worli fort and shared the details of the project, including quantum estimates for materials. NAGAR has been officially appointed as a consultant for the project, on a pro bono basis to design the landscape and signages for the Worli fort. So far, NAGAR has submitted its landscape designs to be implemented in phases. It is in process of designing the signages along with the content. The ward officials have begun the work at site by cleaning the area and submitted their estimates for fencing around the fort as per the designs submitted by NAGAR.

Sion Fort, F north ward

NAGAR met with Mr. Bellale, the Assistant Commissioner, F/North Ward to discuss about the rejuvenation of Sion fort. There is an existing recreational ground around the Sion fort that creates a buffer of approximately 80-100 m. A site visit was conducted along with the ward officials to identify the location for signages and

review the status of the existing RG. The officials suggested that apart from the signage plan, the major work would involve repair and maintenance of this RG rather than designing landscape.

The Assistant Commissioner suggested that NAGAR should go ahead with the signage plan and work with the concerned ward officials as and when needed. NAGAR also consulted the Senior Architect, Garden Cell for inputs on Sion fort and began work on the signages and their locations. In order to avoid duplication of work, the officials suggested that NAGAR should prepare the landscape designs for Sion fort as well.

Sewree Fort, F south ward

NAGAR met with Ms. Swapnaja Kshirsagar, Assistant Commissioner, F/South Ward. She mentioned that the land around Sewree fort is under MbPT. To proceed further, NAGAR met with Mr. Dilip Shekdar, Advisor (Planning), MbPT to discuss about the rejuvenation of the buffer area around the Sewree fort. NAGAR examined the fort site along with Mr. Shekdar. Recently, lights were installed at the Sewree fort to illuminate its façade. However, the northern and eastern side of the fort is encroached by slums and a mosque respectively. Only one signage providing information about the fort was seen in the peripheral area.

Dharavi and Mahim Fort, G north ward

NAGAR met with Mr. Kiran Dighavkar, the Assistant Commissioner, G/North Ward and discussed mainly about the Dharavi fort (*Kala killa*). In order to provide a buffer around Dharavi fort, Mr. Dighavkar asked NAGAR to visit the fort along with his officials to determine the buffer area that can possibly be carved out and fenced around the fort. By this the officials can prepare an inventory of the encroached hutments in the buffer area and act for removal of illegal hutments and rehabilitation where required. Also, the need for an approach road to the fort and good signage is required. Considering the feasibility, he asked officials to ascertain the buffer area (which can be either 5m or 10m). On our visit to the Dharavi fort, we found that it was heavily encroached and new houses were being constructed with windows opening right inside the fort. The walls of the fort were in ruins and

the interiors were dumped with waste. The officials stated that the land abutting the fort belongs to the City Collector and the issue of encroachment has to be addressed to their office.

Bandra Fort, H west ward

At the H/West ward office, NAGAR coordinated with Mr. Dnyanadeo Mundhe, Assistant Engineer, Garden department. He mentioned that the Bandra fort already has a rejuvenation plan in working stage approved 2 years ago. He suggested that NAGAR can give its inputs for the projects which can be incorporated, if suitable.

Heritage application for Young Adults

Mumbai is rapidly changing and its unique multicultural, heritage and ecology being irrevocably eroded. For this reason, NAGAR has initiated an exciting project 'Mumbai - Ek Khoj', Unique Multicultural Heritage for Young Adults which aims to kindle in children an interest in the tangible (natural and built) and intangible (food, culture, festivals) heritage around them in a fun and interactive manner. It is being developed as an Open source Android mobile application. The App aims to make the users aware of and sensitized towards the rich multicultural heritage and ecology of the city from a young age.

Users will be able to visit Mumbai's heritage as a virtual reality through the Apps attractive and illustrative storytelling format. It is to enthuse the users to visit these quaint neighbourhoods and have lived experiences by using the App's navigation tool. The App will be bilingual (English and Marathi) which will make it easily accessible to students from the non-English medium and municipal schools. Having such an app in the present times will serve to bridge the gap between the virtual world that the young generation finds itself glued to and the real world around them.

B. World Heritage Project:

Short film on the UNESCO Ensembles of Mumbai

The "Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai" were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site on 30th June 2018. The site has 92 buildings of 4 different architectural styles: Victorian Gothic, Neoclassical, Indo-Saracenic and Art Deco. The Federation of Residents Trusts, FORT has made a short film on the UNESCO Ensembles of Mumbai to enhance heritage awareness and interpretation. NAGAR was an active participant in this project.

The film was released publicly on 14th October, 2019 at an event of the Art Deco Mumbai Trust at the CSMVS Mumbai, where the Trust released a beautiful illustrated Map of the World Heritage Ensemble area. FORT has set up a YouTube channel, and the video has been uploaded on this platform too (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSm1UFBUKk0>) The film had an excellent response and drawn over 17,200 worldwide views. It has also been uploaded on the Live History India platform.

Proposed Signage Plan

Forming a comprehensive interpretation plan through signage is one of the ways in which awareness and a sense of public responsibility towards the heritage site can be cultivated. A draft Signage management plan is being prepared for the same. This plan suggests suitable locations for different types of signage boards in the Ensemble area.

The Signage type, mounting type and the content in each of them have been designed in conformity with UNESCO Operational Guideline documents for the inscribed World Heritage Site. UDRI, which is a stakeholder of FORT, has initiated and got the support and approval of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee (MHCC) for the signage project. The funding from the RPG Foundation for the entire cost of the plaques - designing, manufacturing, and installing was arranged by UDRI.

FORT has prepared 13 distinct types of signage to be placed in different locations throughout the Ensemble area. The art work for the shop drawings are currently in process and 166 nos. have been sent to the vendor on 30th March 2020.

FORT is in the process of preparing a draft letter that will be sent to authorities/ owners/ concerned members of each of the buildings within the Ensemble, requesting them for permission to install the signage plaques and boards. A list of the building names has been sent to some of the stakeholders, requesting them to fill in contact details of owners or concerned authorities who they may know.

5. Quality of Air:

Clean Air Action Plan for Greater Mumbai

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India launched a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive, time bound manner. The overall objective of the NCAP is comprehensive mitigation actions for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country and strengthening the awareness and capacity building activities. NCAP is a mid-term, 5-year action plan with 2019 as the first year. City specific action plans, in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), are being formulated for 102 non-attainment cities identified for implementing mitigation actions under NCAP. Mumbai, is one of them.

NAGAR sought information under RTI from the Sub-Regional Officer (PIO), Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) regarding Clean Air Action Plan for Greater Mumbai under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). NAGAR received an entire document on NCAP and an order by the National Green Tribunal directing the State Government and MPCB to prepare action plans to combat air pollution. 102 cities have already started to prepare their first baseline action plans.

In response to the aforementioned RTI, NAGAR also received a letter (dtd. 01.07.2016) written by the Chairman, CPCB to the Chairman, MPCB directing him to follow procedures w/s 18(1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of

Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding prevention and control of air pollution in non-attainment cities and towns stating the action to be taken for different types of pollution within a time frame. With reference to the same, the Member Secretary, MPCB had written to the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM on 29.09.2016 to submit the Action Plan for Mumbai to the MPCB within 7 days or else it would be considered as a violation of the directives of the CPCB. Consistent delays in drafting an articulate Action Plan for Mumbai, resulting in no measures at hand to implement, has worsened the situation. Mumbai saw a spike in Air pollution levels upto 318µg/m³ in January, 2020. As per the WHO standards, the maximum levels should not exceed beyond 60µg/m³.

Measures taken by MCGM to curb air pollution caused by construction and demolition waste.

NAGAR filed an application under RTI with the office of the Deputy Municipal Commissioner (SWM), MCGM to seek information regarding measures taken by the MCGM to curb air pollution caused by construction and demolition waste. To which the Executive Engineer (Environment) responded stating that the Environment Department has not been allocated funds to curb air pollution.

NAGAR is following up the matter with multiple authorities as the RTI application was redirected to many. However, it is a sad state of affairs that the gaps in implementation arise not just due to loop holes in policies but also lack of communication between concerned governmental departments.

Appeal to abstain the use of crackers during election

NAGAR wrote an appeal letter to all the major political parties in Mumbai to abstain from the use of any kind of crackers during and post Maharashtra state Assembly election 2019

Meeting with Joint Director (Air Pollution Control), MPCB

Ms. Pandit met with Dr. V. M. Motgare, Joint Director (Air Pollution Control), MPCB. At the said meeting, Dr. Motgare stated that, to keep in check the polluting industrial units causing C&D waste, a drone survey will be done. The short term feasibility report done by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)

has been submitted to MPCB, the long-term report will be submitted soon. He mentioned that 500 electric buses will be brought in service soon by MPCB. Also, Yulu cycles, GPS-operated electric cycles on-rent, will be launched on pilot basis. He stated that bulk waste generators are fined by MCGM. MPCB informs them when such cases occur. He assured that the DG sets in Malls and such big areas will soon be replaced.

6. Water Bodies:

Social work student interns working with NAGAR conducted an on-site survey of some of the Water Bodies in Greater Mumbai. They classified the water bodies zone-wise and selected them based on the literature report available at NAGAR office. The interns divided in groups, went on field visits, took pictures, conducted interviews of the residents nearby and organisations managing the water bodies and also visited the concerned Ward offices to gather authentic information about the water body. At the end of the survey, they submitted a comprehensive report to NAGAR. The base findings of this report can be used to advocate for the rejuvenation and restoration of these water bodies.

Construction and demolition waste processing and recycling facility

An RTI application was filed seeking information on the working and the progress report of the construction and demolition waste processing and recycling facility Mulund (E). The response received stated that the facility is at a tendering stage. However, Budget provision of 6.5 crores is made in the year 2019-2020. It also stated that 600 tons per day (TPD) construction and demolition waste will be processed at the Mulund facility.

An RTI application was filed seeking information in the form of a soft copy of all the documents related to reclamation Project of Mulund Dumping Ground. It was stated that Mulund dumpsite no longer receives fresh MSW since 22.12.2018 and the site will soon be reclaimed. As per the sanctioned DP 2034, the site has been demarcated as

7. SRA matter:

Regaining Public Open Spaces - Petition in Court

NAGAR continues to address issues regarding encroachment / proposed construction on reserved public open spaces within the ambit of its WP1152 of 2002. The layouts shared by citizens from time to time have been studied and scrutinized, and meetings have been held with developers as well as representatives from the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) for approval or disapproval of the proposed projects. NAGAR has prepared a digital database, documenting information received from SRA, concerned citizens and developers, regarding reserved public open spaces affected through Slum Rehabilitation Schemes

8. Networking:**A. Connecting with People:**20 years' association - NAGAR & Mahindra & Mahindra

Ms. Debanjana Das visited NAGAR Office to interact with the team to understand and document the nature of interventions that are currently being undertaken by NAGAR and stories of change from across the ongoing process of the organization. Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. intend to keep a record of such initiatives and the subsequent impact, which would facilitate them in the annual CSR reporting processes. Some of the initiatives and projects undertaken by NAGAR were discussed, such as, the Pilot Project to segregate dry waste at Cuffe Parade, Extensive Public Open Spaces Survey throughout Greater Mumbai, regulation of hawking and so on. As a record to the M&M CSR cell, NAGAR submitted a comprehensive report of its 20 years of work, which is also available on NAGAR's website.

Mumbai Manifesto -Maharashtra Assembly Election 2019

NAGAR submitted its suggestions for the manifesto for the Assembly Elections 2019, which were sought by TOI, aimed to plug gaps in Mumbai's governance. This is with reference to their article dated 19.08.2019, 'Mumbai Manifesto: Time to Ask Questions, Seek Answers'. Later, a Live discussion on the Manifesto was

conducted by Mirror Now. NAGAR's Trustees, Ms. Nayana Kathpalia and Ms. Meher Razaat put forth NAGAR at the discussion.

6th Vimal Shah Memorial lecture' on 'Right to Exercise our Right to Plan: Public advocacy for the Development plan of Greater Mumbai 2034'

Mr. Pankaj Joshi emphasized the need to consider not just the residential population but also the floating population entering Mumbai. He also mentioned that it was a herculean task for any one person or a single organisation to read through the entire Draft DP and identify the horrible mistakes MCGM made and that's the reason crowdsourcing was vital. It was the people's inputs that it became possible to identify 3000 mistakes, scrap the first draft DP. It makes a lot of difference when it's a public movement.

NAGAR participated in the consultation process and has been consistent in its follow-up with suggestions and objections to the Draft DP, revised DP and also the response to the Excluded Parts (EP) concerning Public Open Spaces writing to the respective authorities.

Championing Smart & Sustainable Solid Waste Management in the MMR

Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director and Ms. Arundhati Nagargoje, Program Coordinator, attended an event held on January 09, 2020 on "Championing Smart and Sustainable Solid Waste Management in the MMR", organised by jointly by Mumbai First, NEERI and CSIR. Some of the topics covered were integrating SWM with Smart cities, landfill waste pollution and control, community participation, challenges related to government support and policy gaps, future solutions, role of city planning and opportunities with innovative solutions.

NAGAR has championed the cause of segregation of waste and conducted a pilot project to segregate dry waste, encouraged the ALM movement and also submitted an elaborate People-Public-Private Partnership (PPPP) Model under Swachh Bharat Mission to the Government of India. This event helped NAGAR network with like-minded organizations and understand measures taken by the government and experiments tried and tested by other NGOs.

Climate Crisis: Action for Tropical Coastal cities

At this conference a series of issues were discussed from urban flooding and risk management in coastal cities to the ecological impact that climate change is set to have on human health and marine life. To examine the impact of climate change, government representatives, politicians, urban planners, academicians, social and environmental scientists and environmentalists came together and addressed the impact of global warming and executable solutions for Mumbai and other tropical coastal cities.

NAGAR has time and again raised a concern that reclaiming land and compromising on planning standards to make way for major developmental projects may cause flooding in Mumbai. As a coastal city, with large mangroves acting as sponges and saltpans, constructing without considering the environmental impact would endanger the people inhabiting the city as well as collapse the systems managing it, as witnessed in 2005 and again in 2017. This event gave an insight into models followed by other cities to overcoming such situations and also better planning measures to avert the same.

B. Exploring issues:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

NAGAR filed an application under RTI seeking information regarding the CSR procedure followed by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai as per its circular issued in 2013. An informal meeting was set between CSR cell officer Mr. Atul Kulkarni (Nodal officer) and NAGAR. Mr Kulkarni explained the procedure of application and funding through the CSR cell. Mentioned as below:

Step 1. The application can be submitted on the letter head of the company with detailed and water tight proposal (No specific documents are required). Also all permissions required for the proposal should be taken in advance.

Step 2. The proposal will be forwarded to the interested / listed Company which has already approached the CSR cell to provide funding or the CSR cell will approach companies legally bound to spend under the CSR.

Step 3. The CSR cell will arrange a meeting with the interested Company and applicant NGO where the proposal will be discussed. Based on which the Company will decide whether they would provide funds for particular project.

Step 4. When the project goes to execution stage, the CSR cell will only monitor the process.

❖ **Management of NAGAR:**

NAGAR's affairs continue to be managed by its Trustees and an Executive Committee

The Trustees are

1. Mr. Atul Kumar
2. Mr. D. M. Sukthankar
3. Mr. Dinesh Ahir
4. Mr. Gerson da Cunha
5. Ms. Kunti Oza
6. Ms. Meher Rafaat
7. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia
8. Ms. Neera Punj
9. Ms. Parul Kumtha

Executive Committee Members are:

1. Mr. Atul Kumar
2. Mr. Ashok Ravat
3. Mr. Dinesh Ahir
4. Mr. Gerson da Cunha
5. Ms. Meher Rafaat
6. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia
7. Ms. Neera Punj
8. Ms. Parul Kumtha

❖ **Appreciation:**

NAGAR sincerely thanks and places on record its appreciation for cooperation and assistance provided to us by the following organisations and institutions:

a) Our Donors:

CSD Adenwalla Trust

Manek Guzder

Hemendra Kothari Foundation

Seth Purushottam Das Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

Kala Ghoda Association

Pirojsha Godrej Foundation

Organisation Verdant Ambiences of Land (OVAL) Trust

Oval Cooperage Residents Association (OCRA)

V.V. & K.V. Mariwala Charity Trust

Indu P. Saraiya

b) Lawyers for pro bono work

c) Bankers & Auditors



Gerson da Cunha
Trustee

December 15, 2020