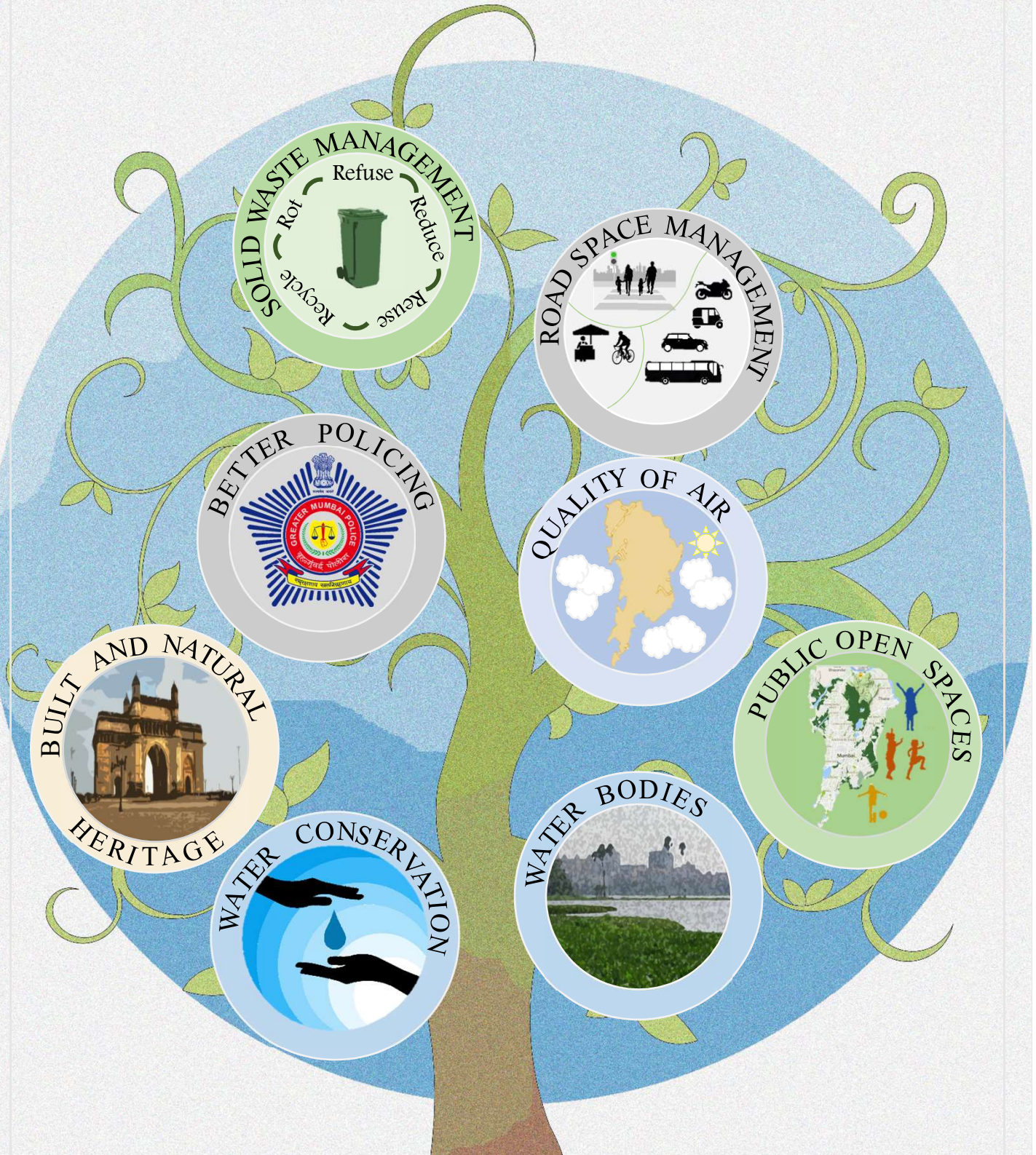




Advocacy - Governance - Renewal



**NAGAR Newsletter**  
April 2016-March 2017



## Public Open Spaces

NAGAR continued to urge the MCGM to follow Best Practices for maintaining all Public Open Spaces owned by them. To emphasize the importance of this, NAGAR chose W.I.T. ground, a neglected public open space designated as a playground, located in Mahim. NAGAR has prepared the design to restore the character of the playground to showcase an ideal plan and will share this with MCGM for implementation.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF W.I.T. GROUND, MAHIM  
COURTESY: NAGAR

NAGAR strongly objected to MCGM's interim policy on public open spaces, that was passed hurriedly before the end of the tenure of the then elected body and days before the restrictions imposed under the election code of conduct. The Policy facilitated an unacceptable option to private organisations, NGOs and citizen groups to enable them to retain their hold over the 216 public open spaces that were to be taken back from them under the orders of the Chief Minister Mr. Devendra Fadnavis.



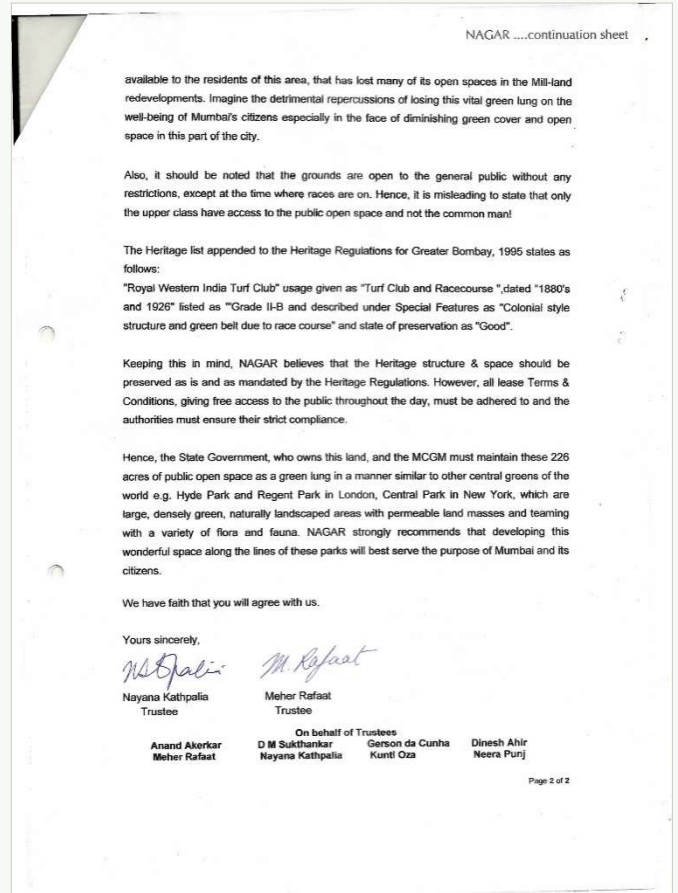
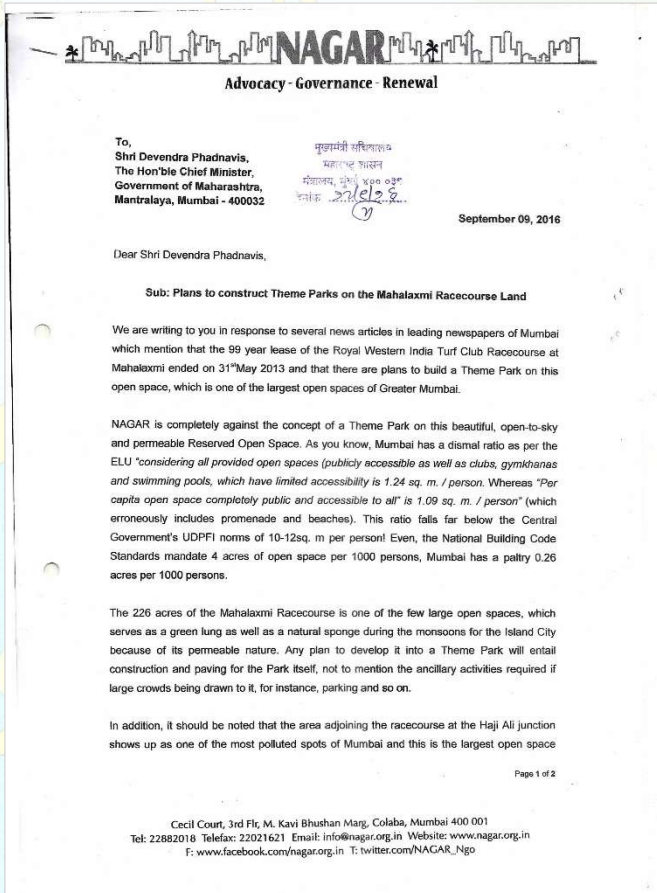
CROSS MAIDAN  
COURTESY: flickr (Ninad Chaudhari)



CROSS MAIDAN  
COURTESY: NUDES (Artist Studio of the Sculpture, called Charkha)

## Public Open Spaces

NAGAR wrote a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis objecting to the construction of a 'Theme Park' on the Mahalaxmi racecourse land. NAGAR pointed out the dismal ratio of public open spaces in Greater Mumbai – 1.09m per person - and highlighted the fact that the racecourse is one of the few large open spaces which serve as a green lung as well as a natural sponge during the monsoons for the Island city. In addition, it is Grade II-B heritage structure as per the heritage list appended to the Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay, 1995.



MAHALAXMI RACE COURSE; COURTESY: Midday


## Revised Draft Development Plan 2014-2034

NAGAR actively responded to the Revised Draft Development Plan (RDDP) (2014 – 2034) by submitting its suggestions & objections from time-to-time. It also encouraged fellow citizen groups to give well-thought responses for the betterment of the city. A special social media link was created and added to the NAGAR website for this purpose.

NAGAR wrote to Mr. R. Balachandran, the Chief Engineer (DP) highlighting the flaws in the RDDP 2034. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia and Ms. Meher Rafaat (both Trustees) met Mr. Ramanath Jha to give NAGAR’s inputs for the Revision of the Development Plan (2014 - 2034). An article in Mumbai Mirror, dated April 18, 2017, entitled ‘BMC offers builders squat & grab chance to usurp open spaces’ quotes NAGAR stating, “Mumbai has approximately 1400 reserved public open spaces, according to a survey conducted by NAGAR, an NGO fighting for protection of open spaces. All of these could become vulnerable to encroachment and then commercial exploitation if the new provision in the Development plan goes through.”

**NAGAR NGO** @NAGAR\_Ngo · 8 Apr 2015

Why is the Mumbai #DP2034 plan a repugnant draft that needs to be revoked? Read on : [scribd.com/doc/261225062/...](https://scribd.com/doc/261225062/...)



**NAGAR NGO** @NAGAR\_Ngo · 20 Apr 2015

These kids have something to say about the #MumbaiOpenSpaces Hear them out!

NAGAR NGO - Saving #MumbaiOpenSpaces



**NAGAR NGO - Saving #MumbaiOpenSpaces**

If we don't save our #MumbaiOpenSpaces as articulated in #DP2034, our future generations are at a risk of losing their childhood forever. Speak up befo...

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

1. NAGAR – Saving #MumbaiOpenSpaces - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UY5iQmVHX0>
2. Vishal Dadlani for NAGAR – Saving #MumbaiOpenSpaces - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I-YyJrH1lo>
3. Cyrus Broacha for NAGAR – Saving #MumbaiOpenSpaces - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0WJkqw0yBI>

### The Fight Continues

#### July 2016

Suggestions and Objections by NAGAR were given to the DP department on RDDP 2034.

#### November 2016

NAGAR attended the RDDP 2034 Hearing held by MCGM and presented its views.

#### July 2017

NAGAR had continued sending suggestions and objections until the meeting conducted in the MCGM, for approval of RDDP 2034 to be sent to the State.

**NAGAR NGO** @NAGAR\_Ngo · 21 Apr 2015

And, it is official ! Maharashtra govt drops Mumbai development plan 2034 ! A thank you is in order for all those who supported. #DP2034

## Historic Built/Natural Heritage

Further to the publication of NAGAR's book entitled "Forts of Mumbai – Abandoned Treasures", a project for rejuvenation of Forts was taken up. For this project NAGAR began working closely with the relevant government authorities namely the Director, the Directorate of Archaeology & Museums (Government of Maharashtra) and the Superintending Archaeologist, Mumbai Circle, Archaeological Survey of India for discussion regarding the respective forts under their jurisdiction. As a part of the endeavour, NAGAR is preparing a report, in consultation with a conservation architect.



BANDRA FORT; COURTESY: NAGAR



SEWRI FORT; COURTESY: NAGAR



SION FORT; COURTESY: TREKSHITIZ



DHARAVI FORT; COURTESY: SHIV CHHATRAPATI



WORLI FORT; COURTESY: bijoor.me



MAHIM FORT; COURTESY: DNA INDIA

It aims to highlight the current physical status of the forts, while defining corrective measures. It will also incorporate design solutions for a buffer area, maintenance guidelines and rejuvenation of the inner space. NAGAR plans to present this Report to the Chief Minister to request him to ensure effective action.

## Water Bodies

As a first step towards conservation of water bodies, NAGAR began compiling information on the status of the existing water bodies in Greater Mumbai using the effective tool of RTI.



MITHI RIVER, COURTESY: INDIAN EXPRESS



VIHAR LAKE; COURTESY: MAPIO

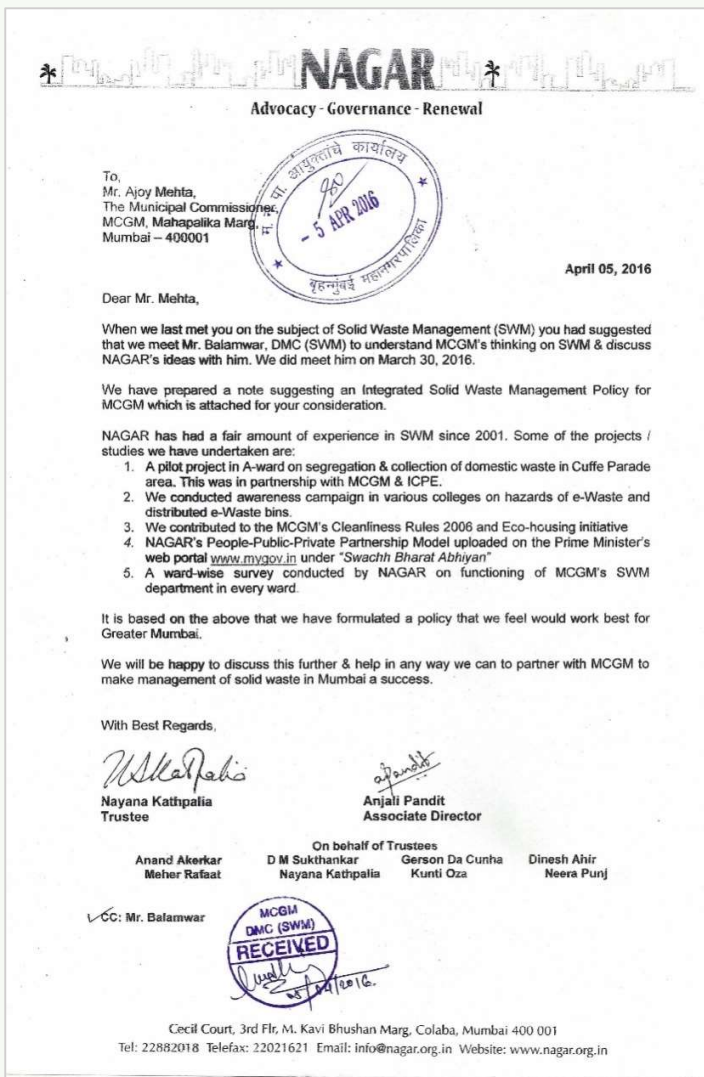


As of now, NAGAR has been provided with the list of water bodies existing in all the 24 wards of Greater Mumbai. On further study, it was found that some of the wards do not have adequate information, some have just a list for their record and some have included even drains as water bodies. NAGAR has decided to prepare a status report of the present condition of water bodies and also provide recommendations for their conservation. Inputs from experts, dialogue with the officials and citizen groups will be part of this exercise.

## Solid Waste Management

NAGAR drafted an Integrated Solid Waste Management Policy for Greater Mumbai 2016 – 2021 and presented it to Mr. Ajoy Mehta, the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM. This policy was drafted to constructively resolve the complex issue of managing solid waste for a burgeoning metropolis like Greater Mumbai. The policy was based on hands-on experience, observations and analysis of various reports.

Currently the policies drafted by MCGM are hugely inadequate and the dumping grounds are reaching crisis levels. At times, the dumping grounds catch fire leading to an outbreak of respiratory diseases. Considering this urgent need, NAGAR drafted this policy to enable a partnership between the people and the MCGM to treat waste in an efficient and scientific manner.



COURTESY: NAGAR

## Meetings and Networking

NAGAR is deeply concerned on the issue of development of Mumbai's Portland. NAGAR believes that a Master Plan is essential for the entire Eastern Water Front (EWF) and that this area should be integrated with the Development Plan of Greater Mumbai 2014-2034. The focus of such a plan should be on recreation and leisure for the citizens where at least 50-60% of this land should be reserved as public open space. Tree plantation on a large scale must be undertaken to increase the green cover on the rather barren MbPT land and no private housing should be permitted.

After a careful study of MCGM's Comprehensive Mobility Plan 2016, NAGAR held a focus group meeting on Road Space Management with some experts in the field. The purpose was to brainstorm on ideas taking an overview of the present scenario, gain a clarity of thought and strengthen the base of our understanding. At the meeting, the group decided on broad areas to devise an action plan. At present, NAGAR is in the process of identifying potential locations in Greater Mumbai for a case-study to understand traffic snarls and parking and put forth probable solutions to curb this menace.

NAGAR was one of the associate partners for the conference, 'The Future Of Our Past – Conserving Historic Cities in South Asia', held on November 16-17, 2016 at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, organised by the Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and Jindal Steel Works. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, Trustee – NAGAR, in a panel discussion, spoke about the importance of conservation of public open spaces, and her related experiences, along with the relevance of built and natural heritage, and their value, especially in Mumbai.





## Appreciation & Gratitude

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

### Our Donors:

Mahindra & Mahindra  
 Pirojsha Godrej Foundation  
 Mr. Cyrus Guzder  
 Mr. Hemendra Kothari  
 Family Trust CSD Adenwalla Trust  
 Seth Purshotamdas Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust  
 Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation  
 Pidilite Industries Limited  
 Rajaram Bandekar  
 Smt. Kanchangauri Kantilal Pandhi & Shri Kantilal Amritlal Pandhi Charitable Trust  
 J V Gokal Charity Trust  
 Shri Krishna Foundation  
 Mr. K V Mariwala (Shri V.V. & Smt. K.V. Mariwala Charity Trust)  
 Give India  
 Mr. Fali Sarkari  
 Mr. Dilip Goculdas  
 Mr. Ardeshir B K Dubash  
 Ms. Shirin K Bharucha  
 Ms. Nina D Verma  
 Mr. S K Nangia  
 Mr. Mahesh A Patel  
 Organisation for Verdant Ambience Land Trust (OVAL)  
 Ms. Silloo Marker  
 Mr. Ashok Ravat

NAGAR also conveys gratitude to all NAGAR Associates as well as active citizens, especially Mr. Vishal Dadhlani and Mr. Cyrus Broacha for their contribution in the videos as well as podcasts during the social media campaign launched by NAGAR in 2015 for the Development Plan of Greater Mumbai.

Heartfelt thank you, most especially, to our lawyers for their pro-bono work.

NAGAR thanks ProEngage for providing volunteers, and College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan for providing students for their internship with NAGAR.

## Funding Required

The tiny group of change-makers who laid the groundwork for NAGAR now faces problems that have grown in scale and complexity. The lack of continuous and long term resources is a major cause of concern. NAGAR has the passion, experience and knowhow needed for advocating policy change and urban renewal for which it was nominated by the Hindustan Times as an Agent of Change in 2015. However, the assets required lie with corporations, foundations and trusts, financial institutional and individuals who wish the city well. The secret of success in building partnerships lies in the word 'Together'. This is the best way to bring about change which is why, at NAGAR, help is always welcome.

**An 80G exemption is available. Cheques may be drawn in the name of "NAGAR".**

By Cheque / Demand Draft - In the name of "NAGAR"

By wire transfer for: Indian Rupee : Remittances:

**Bank Name:** Bank of India

**Branch Name:** Churchgate, Mumbai

**Account Number:** 001010100061831

**Account Name:** NAGAR

**Type of Account:** Savings

**Branch Code:** 0010

**IFSC:** BKID0000010

**FCRA Registration no:** 083781429

**Foreign Fund Remittances**

**Bank Name:** HDFC Bank

**Branch Name:** Mistry Bhavan, Mumbai

**Account Number:** 50100066553642

**Account Name:** NAGAR

**Type of Account:** Savings

**Branch Code:** 0501

**IFSC:** HDFC0000501

## About NAGAR

NAGAR is a not for profit organization established in 2000, born out of the passion of several ordinary citizens with a goal to improve life in the city of Mumbai. It works in the areas of preservation of public open spaces, solid waste management, improvement in air quality, preservation of beaches, mangroves, built & natural heritage, efficient road space management, water conservation and better policing. Its creed has been strong and consistent advocacy with the Government and its agencies for better implementation of existing laws, suggesting changes in policies for better governance in civic related issues and working towards urban renewal. It has a vast citizen base spread over the city and networks with other civic NGOs on specific issues.

The NAGAR logo was registered with Trademark Registrar on 19/01/2017.

## Management at NAGAR

### Board of Trustees

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Anand Akerkar   | 6. Ms. Kunti Oza        |
| 2. Mr. Atul Kumar      | 7. Ms. Meher Rafaat     |
| 3. Mr. DM Sukhtankar   | 8. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia |
| 4. Mr. Dinesh Ahir     | 9. Ms. Neera Punj       |
| 5. Mr. Gerson da Cunha | 10. Ms. Parul Kumtha    |

### Executive Committee

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

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FB: [www.facebook.com/nagar.org.in](https://www.facebook.com/nagar.org.in)

Twitter: [twitter.com/NAGAR\\_Ngo](https://twitter.com/NAGAR_Ngo)