

OUR PROGRAMS



NAGAR

NEWSLETTER

2019-2020

20 years


focusing on



NAGAR is a not for profit organization established in Mumbai 20 years ago in the year 2000. It is a unique initiative, 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 water bodies, beaches, mangroves, built and natural heritage features, efficient road space management, water conservation and better policing. Its creed has been strong and consistent advocacy with 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 Greater Mumbai and networks with other civic NGOs on specific issues.

Public Open Spaces


NAGAR - member of the Experts' Group for Garden's Policy

 NAGAR responded to the MCGM's notification PRO/681/ADV/2019-20 published in the Times of India on 3 August 2019, seeking suggestions for a new Gardens' policy concerning their maintenance and upkeep of all Open Spaces.

The letter suggested that four mandatory principles must be followed for conserving Public Open Spaces. i.e. **a.** They should be non-buildable **b.** They shall be permeable **c.** They shall be accessible to all throughout the day and **d.** They shall be open to the sky. NAGAR emphasized that 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 the Public Open Spaces. For instance, no commercial activities should be allowed in the POSs; 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.

NAGAR attended a meeting at the office of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM on August 27, 2019

to discuss various issues like Public Open Spaces, Garden policy, Urban Forestry, Solid Waste Management, Parking and so on. When asked for its view on the Garden policy, NAGAR put forth its stand that the policy should be citizen-friendly and its rules watertight. The Municipal Commissioner directed that an Experts' group be formed to work on the garden policy and NAGAR be part of it.

 Garden Experts' Group meeting held on August 03, 2019, 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 non-buildable, permeable, accessible and open to sky. The officials assured the group that no construction would be done on 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 to remain on RGs.

Considering its 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. As an NGO with an experience of 20 years in the field of protection and preservation of public open spaces, NAGAR could contribute immensely to make this policy watertight and the process of implementation, transparent. It also 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.



24*7 OPEN GARDEN

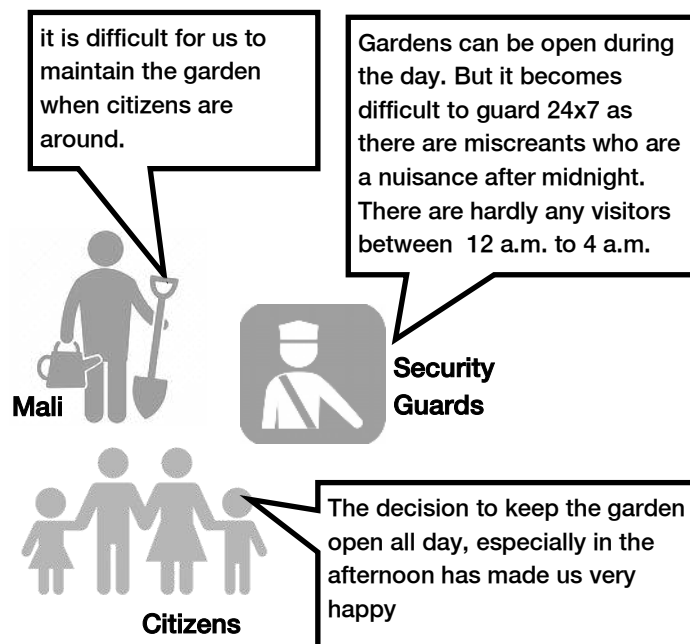


New timings for MCGM Gardens

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.



Large no. of residents living nearby visit the garden often because of good condition. Though there was no provision of toilet and drinking water

24* 7 Open Gardens



Oftenly visited by residents living nearby. A well maintained garden, though lack of utility services like toilet and drinking water facilities.



A well-maintained garden with exercise equipment installed and facility for a reading corner. Senior citizens living nearby often visit the garden.



Mostly frequented by College students from nearby Colleges. There are some miscreants that create nuisance in the afternoon and late in the night.

List of MCGM's Gardens

open 24x7

A list of MCGM's gardens, officially published on MCGM's Facebook page, to be kept open 24x7 on a pilot basis. In all 24 gardens, i.e. one from each ward was chosen for this purpose.

| MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GARTER MUMBAI | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|--|
| Sub:- Wardwise List of Gardens to be kept open 24 hrs | | | | | | |
| Sr.No | Ward | Name of Garden | Location | Reservation | Area (Sq.mtr) | Remarks |
| 1 | A | Cooperage Bandstand Garden | At. Junction of M.K. road & Madam Cama road, near Mantralalya | RG | 5900 | Convenient to Public |
| 2 | B | Nil | | | | |
| 3 | C | Bhagvandas Todi Garden Children Park | H cross lane near Marine Line railway station (W) Mumbai-400 002 | RG | 1545 | Garden in near Marine Lines railway station convenient to public. |
| 4 | D | TATA Garden | Bhulibaidasai Desai Marg, Mumbai, 400026 | RG | 8000 | Convenient to Public |
| 5 | E | Abdula Brelia Garden | Near Chichpokali Railway Station (W), N.M. Joshi Marg, Mumbai-11 | RG | 2058 | Garden near railway station convenient to Public |
| 6 | F/South | Bidu Madhav Thackrey Udyan | RG Plot at Bombay Gas Company, Lalbaug, Mumbai-400012 | R.G. | 4500 | Convenient for public to use. Surrounded by Residential Area. |
| 7 | F/North | Maheshwari Udyan | B.N. Maheshwari Udyan,King Circle, Dr.B.A.Road, Matunga -400019 | R.G. | 8597 | Centrally located in ward and convenient for public to use. Circular in shape and surrounded by road. |
| 8 | G/South | Adya shankaracharya Garden | Sir Pochkhanwala Road , Worli,Mumbai-400030 | Garden | 4650 | Accessible from Upper Pochkhanwala as well as lower Pochkhanwala road and surrounded by residential colony Convenient for public to use. |
| 9 | G/North | Aaji Ajobaa udyan | Garden at Shivaji Park, Dadar -400016 | Park | 1400 | Prime Location and Convenient for Public to use. |
| 10 | H/East | Dr. Babasahe Ambedkar Udyan | Opposite to Bandra Collector office, nearKherwadi Junction, Bandra (E) -400051 | R.G | 3000 | Convenient for public to use in night as it is visible from road side too. |
| 11 | H/West | Rao Saheb Patwardhan Udyan | Linking Road, opp National College, Bandra west, Mumbai - 400 050. | R.G. | 18000 | This is centrally located in ward and convenient for public to use in night as it is visible from road side too |

| Sr.No. | Ward | Name of Garden | Location | Reservation | Area (Sq.mtr) | Remarks |
|--------|-----------|---|---|-------------------|---------------|---|
| 12 | K/East | Shree Sai Leela Manoranjan Maidan | Vijay Raut Marg, Pump house, Andheri (E) -400093 | RG | 1967 | Its visible from road and has good illumination |
| 13 | K/West | Kamlakarpant Walwalkar Recreation Ground | CTS no. 1/224, Village Oshiwara near Indra Darshan Soccity , opp Green Park Lokhandwala Complex Andheri (W) -400053 | RG | 21545.52 | Well-developed garden located at Lokhandwala complex ,Andheri (W), Citizens may utilize the facilities throughout day & night |
| 14 | P/South | Vedprakash Chadda Garden | Jawahar Nagar Road no. 4 X 10 Goregaon (W) -400104 | RG | 1000 | Well Developed garden located P/ South Ward office. Citizens may utilize the facilities throughout day & night |
| 15 | P/North | Swatantrata Udyan | CTS no. 913, opp P/ North Ward office Malad (W), Mumbai- 400 064 | Garden | 3135 | Well-developed garden located opposite P/North ward office at . Citizens may utilize the facilities throughout day & night |
| 16 | R/South | Lokmanya ba Gangadhar Tilak Udyan | Khajuria Nagar, SV Road, Opp. Milap Theatre, Kandivali (W) 400067 | RG | 4836.5 | Convenient to Public. |
| 17 | R/Central | Ganjawala Garden, CTS no. 2448 | Ganjawala Lane, S.V.P. road, Boriwali, (W) -400091 | Garden | 6000 | This garden is easily accessible from S.V.P. road. Garden has ample seating arrangements. |
| 18 | R/North | Jari Mari Garden | CS Road ,Dahisar (E) -401202 | Garden | 3000 | Near Dahisar station Convenient to public |
| 19 | L | Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Udyan, Chunabhatti | CTS No. 571 , VN Purav Marg , Chunabhatti -400022 | Garden | 2047 | Near Chunabhatti station Convenient to public |
| 20 | M/East | Bindu Madhav Thakare Manoranjan Maidan | CTS No. 118, VN Purav Marg , opp BARC Main Gate , Anushaktinagar , Mankhurd - 400088 | Recreation Garden | 5600 | Centrally located and convenient to public |
| 21 | M/west | D.K. Sandu Udyan | D.K. Sandu Marg, Chembur -400071 | Garden | 2688 | centrallylocatedandconvenientto public touse in night as it is visible from roadside too |
| 22 | N | Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar Udyan | Br. Nath Pai Nagar , Ghatkopar (E) -400077 | Garden | 19600 | Convenient to use, well connected with roads |
| 23 | S | Shahid Jaywant Hanumant Patil Recreation Ground | Bhandup (W), Mumbai -400078 | Recreation Ground | 5114 | Near L.B.S. convenient to public. |
| 24 | T | Lala Tulasiram Udyan | Devidayal Road, opp BEST depot. Mulund (W) - 400080 | Park | 6540 | Convenient to public |

Letters for Suggestions and Objections

‘New Policy on Public Open Spaces’.



NAGAR wrote to the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM on May 13, 2019 emphasizing the vital importance of public open spaces in the urban environment. Raising concern over the dwindling ratio of per capita public open spaces in the city, NAGAR insisted that an appropriate policy on public open spaces be formulated. The non-negotiable principles for preservation of public open spaces are **Non-buildable, Accessible, Open to Sky and Permeable**, aside from allowable construction of a ‘10ft x 10ft’ *chowki* and a spatial fence with a low kerb wall. In this letter, NAGAR highlighted the importance of public participation and people-public cooperation with the suggestion that a Municipal Ward Level Committee be constituted, which would comprise members from the authorities as well as civil society, in the form of stakeholders. As the previous policies or the interim policy could not prevent encroachment on public open spaces, NAGAR believes that the new policy should be formulated adhering to the non-negotiable principles and guidelines, with the supervision of the Municipal Ward Level Committee in either case.

‘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. **The prime characteristics of a public open**

space includes its non-buildable nature (above and below ground), accessibility to the public, openness to the sky and permeability, 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 Udyaan, 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, 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

In Greater Mumbai,
Per Capita **OPEN SPACE** available

1.24 SQ.M

Source: Development Plan for
Greater Mumbai, 2034

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.

Per Capita **OPEN SPACE** required

10-12 SQ.M.

Source: Urban and Regional Development Plans Formula-
tion and Implementation (URDPFI)

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.

About Miyawaki method

Developed by Japanese botanist and plant ecology expert, Dr Akira Miyawaki – allows forests to have improved carbon-dioxide absorption; better noise and dust reduction, and greener surface area as compared to monoculture (traditional) plantations. For traditional plantation techniques, one sapling is planted at an average distance of 150 sqft from each other. The Miyawaki technique can support 45 saplings within 150 sqft



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



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. The six forts covered by the report 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.

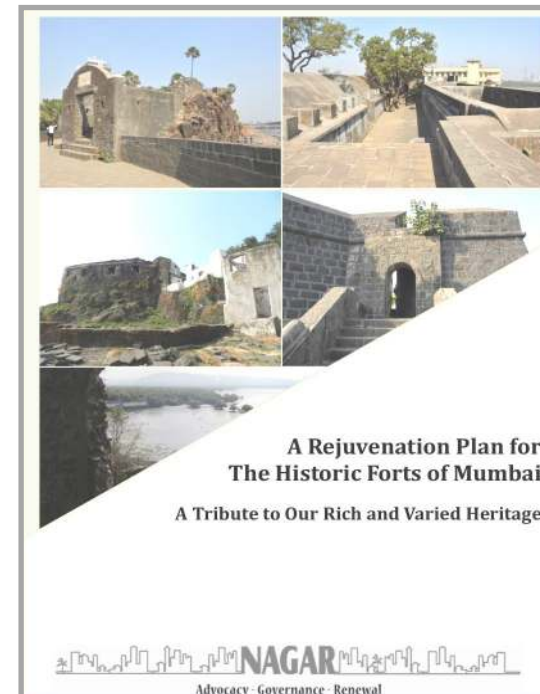
Meeting with Municipal Commissioner, MCGM



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).

Worli fort

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.



Heritage

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 from the Narayan / Potdar junction, 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

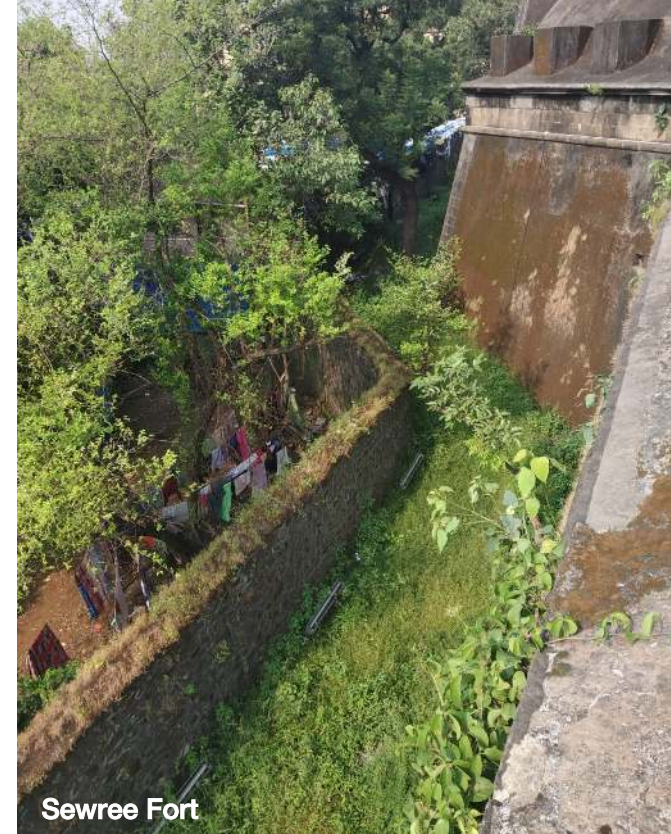
NAGAR met with Mr. Bellale, the Assistant Commissioner, F/North Ward to discuss about the rejuvenation of Sion fort. There is an existing recreational ground around the Sion fort that creates a buffer of approximately 80-100 m. A site visit was conducted along with the ward officials to identify the 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 Shekhdar, Advisor (Planning), MbPT to discuss about the rejuvenation of the buffer area around the Sewree fort. NAGAR examined the fort site along with Mr. Shekhdar. 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 10 m). 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', 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. We hope 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.



UNESCO World Heritage Site

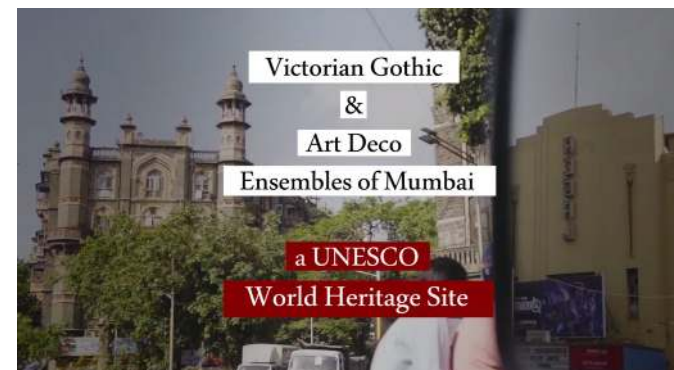
Short film on the UNESCO Ensembles of Mumbai

The "Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai" were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site on 30 June 2018. The site has 92 buildings of 4 different architectural styles: Victorian Gothic, Neoclassical, Indo-Saracenic and Art Deco.

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.



Source: Art Deco, Mumbai

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.

Zoning of Hawkers and Regulation of Parking

NAGAR conducted a survey on illegal Hawking and Parking 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, the aforementioned areas are where hawking is prohibited and hence, are to be declared as No-Hawking zones.

NAGAR surveyed 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 the footpath,
M.C. Javle Marg, Dadar



Illegal hawking under No hawking zone sign
(Outside Dadar railway station)



Illegal hawking outside the LBS Municipal market, Matunga



Illegal food truck in front of KEM Hospital, parked on footpath

Findings of the on-site survey were as below:

Illegal hawking continued despite the "no-hawking" zone signboards were put up by the MCGM. For instance, at Dadar, Elphinstone & Parel railway stations. However, at some railway stations, 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, as in the case of the LBS Municipal market at Matunga where vegetable vendors have encroached the entire footpath outside the market

The Municipal markets sold items other than those mandated, i.e. the market meant for selling household items essential for daily use, was full of shops selling items like clothing, cosmetics and imitation jewellery, etc.

Hospitals being vulnerable spaces as hygiene and access to emergency vehicles is essential, it was shocking to see illegal hawkers cooking using huge stoves at the gates of the hospital. This was seen outside Sion hospital. Also, within 100 mts. of the periphery of KEM hospital, on the opposite footpath of one of the gates, couple of food trucks were selling all sorts of food items.



Illegal Hawking under Kavi Keshavsut flyover



Illegal Hawking on footpath (Amar Shahid Akshay Dhanrai Chowk)



Illegal food truck on the adjacent footpath of Sion Hospital



Location: Dadar
Area: Railway station
Survey area: 150 M.
around eastern and western area of station



Location: Matunga
Area: Municipal Market
Survey area: 100 M.
around the municipal



Location: Parel
Area: Hospital
Survey area: 100 M. around the

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.

Illegal Parking

TVC Zonal meeting



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.

NAGAR is a member of the Zone 1 Town Vending Committee (comprising wards : A-E) has attended all the meetings held so far, of which this is the 4th meeting of the TVC Zone-1, held on January 31, 2020. The central TVC finalised the Hawking zones per ward within the city. The Hawker pitches are being marked in the hawking zones. Hawker licences will be shortly issued. 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.



Illegal parking in NO Parking Zone at Elphinstone Railway station



Multiple Signages placed at a very little distance from each other



Signage highlighting the charges for illegal parking



Municipal Public Parking Lot

Findings of the on-site survey were as below:

Illegal parking is a grave concern near railway stations, with many motorbikes, private cars and taxis parked in the no parking area, near the "No Parking" signboard. For instance, at Elphinstone railway station.

It was also observed that the 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.





Illegal Parking on footpath in front of MHADA housing

Air Pollution

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 (dt. 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

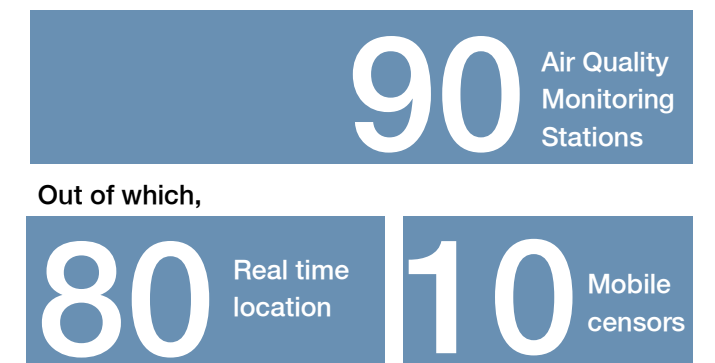
 NAGAR wrote an appeal letter to all the major political parties in Mumbai to abstain from the use of any kind of crackers during and post Maharashtra state Assembly election 2019

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.

Mumbai witnessed 80% surge in PM10 (Particulate Matter) concentration from 2007-18.

To reduce Air Pollution, Mumbai to get



Source: Hindustan Times news report dated 10 Feb 2020

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.

NAGAR will use the base findings of this report 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 'commercial'.



Banganga Talav



Bandra Talav



Maharashtra Nature Park Talav



Bhandupeshwar Kund



Ganesh ghat Mithagar Talao



Shivaji talav



Tara Singh Talav

Development Plan 2034 for Greater Mumbai

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 *Koliwadas* (Local fisher communities), illustrative mistakes in maps and legends etc.



Proposed Land Use &
Amenities for Greater Mumbai

Source: Development Plan 2034 of
Greater Mumbai

Regaining Public Open Spaces - Petition in Court

NAGAR continues to address issues regarding 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.

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.

Networking

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 Rafaat 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.



Making a Difference for 20 Years...

2000-'01

Year of establishment. Three core programs run by three constituents under NAGAR – CitiSpace (for protection of Public Open Spaces), Clean Sweep (for Solid Waste Management) and Clean Air (for improvement in the ambient air quality) put into effect the objectives set by NAGAR.

2001-'02

NAGAR organised A-Ward election watch (A.W.E.) to create awareness on importance of civic elections, held meetings between residents and candidates, drafted Local Citizens' Manifestos; organised "Vote for Mumbai" rally which succeeded in registering 7.33% increase in voter turnout in one of the constituencies; initiated a dry waste segregation pilot project in Cuffe Parade, collaborating with the MCGM and the Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment (ICPE) and partnering with NGOs, residential associations. From April to November 2001, the collection quantum of 'dry' waste increased from 600 kg per month to over 10,000 kg per month and was sent to the recyclers. Also, money generated from waste increased from Rs.1210/- per month to over Rs. 30,000/- per month.

2002-'03

Clean Air appointed on the Co-ordination Committee constituted by the Bombay High Court (Aug 2002) suggested measures to reduce air pollution, institution of flying squads of RTOs resulting in complete conversion to clean fuel of the taxi fleet (of

55,000 taxis) and a phase-out of almost 20,000 fifteen year old un-road-worthy heavy vehicles.

One year pilot project- Youth Intervention and Participation In Environmental Education (YIPEE) run in collaboration with WWF-India (World Wide Fund for nature) in which children from ten school is representing different socio-economic strata and different medium of instruction within one Municipal ward / geographical area were involved in spreading the message to their peers, schoolmates, families and neighbourhood on themes such as water conservation, waste management, appreciation of the city's heritage and so on through modules prepared to educate them about their rights as well as responsibilities as residents of this city and even of the planet.

Slums rehabilitation on Reserved Public Open Spaces was challenged by CitiSpace in the Bombay High Court in 2002 resulting in a stay on the scheme. Within the ambit of its Writ Petition 1152 of 2002, the layouts are shared with CitiSpace (the Petitioner) studied and scrutinized, and meetings are held between the Petitioner, developers and the representatives from the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) for approval or disapproval of the proposed projects.

2003-'04

NAGAR suggested institutionalization of the Advanced Locality Management (ALM) scheme of the MCGM and put forward a proposal for the same, to

convert them into a legal entity, an empowered cell to oversee its growth and development, the possibility of creating an apex federation of ALMs, and, above all, an Independent Monitoring Body to ensure its efficient functioning. Also, a study was conducted jointly by Clean Sweep and AILSG for MCGM to evaluate ALMs, among other things, on the aspect of waste management techniques resulting in immediate cost savings to MCGM

CitiSpace published a booklet in January 2004 titled "Hawking & Non-hawking zones in Greater Mumbai – Everything you want to Know" in English, Hindi and Marathi. This was to disseminate the Supreme Court Order and other related matters.

2004-'05

Clean Sweep and AILSG jointly prepared of a comprehensive handbook to introduce newcomers to the ALM Scheme and be of use to existing ones too.

Ms. Meher Rafaat, founder of Clean Air gave valuable inputs to Bombay First's Taxi Report as the only member who had any experience of working with the taxi unions in her capacity as a member of the V.M. Lal Committee and the High Court Co-ordination Committee and conversant with the working of the R.T.O. The Report of the committee centers on upgrading and enhancing this form of intermediary transport as part of a holistic solution to Mumbai's transport needs.

2005-'06

Clean Sweep submitted its inputs to the MCGM's proposed Eco-Housing Scheme for Mumbai; NAGAR participated in the meetings on hawking and non-hawking zones. A Project Report on the viability of ALMs completed by the partners – AILSG and Clean

Sweep was submitted to the MCGM in September 2005. It was received well by Mr. Ratho, the AMC in charge of SWM, and the parameters of payback to the ALMs were discussed in the meeting itself resulting in MCGM pledging a generous amount to waste-managing ALM.

2006-'07

NAGAR advocated with the MCGM to make it mandatory for clubs, restaurants to compost their wastes by issuing a notification to that effect, to buyback of compost by MCGM, a Nuisance Detector Scheme for the city on the lines of the Nagpur Scheme; a separate and complete 'Dry' Waste Management Plan which is supported by a directive from the Government of Maharashtra to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

2007-'08

CitiSpace objected to the controversial Caretaker policy drafted by MCGM and approved by the Maharashtra Government and held public hearings, press conferences, public debates all through 2007 to highlight the disastrous repercussions, setting in motion a tendency to legally usurp public open spaces for private interests. CitiSpace and Clean Air drafted an open letter of appeal to the then Chief Minister which was signed by prominent citizens, namely, Justice B. N. Srikrishna (Retd.), Justice S. Variava (Retd.), Mr. Sharad Kale, Mr. D. M. Sukthankar, Mr. Satish Sahney, Mr. Julio Rebeiro, Mr. Cyrus Guzder, Mr. Nasser Munjee, Mr. Gerson Da Cunha, Mrs. Sheilu Srinivasan, Mr. Debi Goenka, Mrs. Shirin Bharucha, Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, Mrs. Nayana Kathpalia, Mrs. Neera Punj and Mrs. Meher Rafaat.

It was published in the Hindustan Times on September 14, 2007 after which the Chief Minister stayed the Caretaker Policy.

CitiSpace initiated a workshop on implementation of the Hawkers Scheme held successfully at the F-North Ward Office on March 14, 2008 with as many as 55 Ward officials participating. Many issues regarding the Supreme Court Orders and the problems facing the MCGM officials were discussed.

2008-'09

Clean Sweep organized Mumbai's first program on "E-waste Awareness" on June 5, 2008 (World Environment Day) at BNHS. It was supported by 'Ecoreco', an e - waste recycling firm in Mumbai and chaired by the Hon. Sheriff of Mumbai. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Mumbai's Municipal Commissioner, Member Secretary, MPCB, and the Consular Generals of Switzerland, Germany and France addressed the gathering. Clean Sweep pledged to support Mahindra and Mahindra's film called 'Mumbai Chakachak' which aimed at giving the much needed impetus to the 'Clean-up Mumbai' campaign of MCGM.

CitiSpace began with an on-site survey on Reserved Public Open Spaces (RPOSs) in Greater Mumbai. This is a detailed survey compiling information on the status of RPOSs with reference to the Development Plan 1991. Key elements were the reservation as per DP 1991 and MCGM list, area, ownership, maintenance on site and accessibility to the public.

2009-'10

The MCGM drafted a policy for Hawkers & Hawking in Greater Mumbai based on the Hawker Policy of the Government of Maharashtra and invited suggestion /

objections from citizens. CitiSpace conducted three citizen meetings each in the Island City, Western & Eastern suburbs, explained it in detail and encouraged the citizens to participate and submit suggestions & objections. An English booklet in an easy-to-read format was distributed at the meetings.

Clean Sweep conducted E-Waste Awareness Programmes in colleges and distributed e-waste bins meant for the collection of discarded electronic items like floppies, CDs, print cartridges, cell phones. These bins carry small panels explaining the hazards of e-waste and also who to contact for e-waste collection.

2010-'11

CitiSpace released the book 'Breathing Space - A Fact File of 600 Reserved Open Spaces in Greater Mumbai' on June 26, 2010. The book contains filled in Proforma, sketched layouts and photographic evidence of 600 sites, with ascertained ownership of the plot, details of the site from the Development Plan 1991 and a satellite image of the plot. The survey was coordinated by Architect Parul Kumtha who was assisted by 2 Architects and 44 student architects. The teams visited each and every designated site.

Taking inspiration from CitiSpace's work, a localized, new organization was launched for the Juhu- Andheri - Bandra suburbs called "Save Open Spaces" (SOS). This fledgling organization, comprising of 22 members, many of who were members of and had a long-standing association with CitiSpace, was dedicated to protecting Open Spaces between the suburbs from Versova to Bandra of Mumbai.

2011-'12

CitiSpace's SRA Writ Petition 1152 of 2002 continued in the Bombay High Court with the Stay Order of 2002 still holding. Its members discussed with its lawyers the possibility of protection all Reserved Open Spaces in Greater Mumbai by clubbing the interim Bombay HC Order of W.P.1152 of 2002 and the Order banning swimming pools and Sports Complexes on PGs to protect any type of construction on these plots. Local Individuals and organizations were assisted by CitiSpace in their struggles to protect their neighbourhood open spaces. Besides regular help in the form of helping with RTIs, meeting local and central authorities as the need may be and guiding them with rules and regulations, etc. to ensure that Reserved Open Space are well maintained, CitiSpace held workshops with its members. Prior to the Municipal Corporation elections, CitiSpace contacted elected representatives to take up the cause of Reserved Open Spaces and make it a part of their manifesto

Clean Sweep undertook a study titled "Solid Waste Management – an Alternative Paradigm" that emphasized on "Agencification" as the most effective alternative. This study was done by the professors of the IIT-Bombay, in partnership with the AILSG & UDRI and supported by NEERI.

2012-'13

As a member of the Government's Environment Mission under the stewardship of Secretary Environment, Mrs. Valsa Nair Singh CitiSpace advocated that a new policy be framed regarding Open Spaces covering all Government agencies in Mumbai. This was presented by Ms. Nair Singh to the

Chief Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan. Subsequently a GR to formulate a 'Uniform Policy for Comprehensive Planning & Development of the Open Spaces within limits of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai', binding on all Authorities which have Open Spaces in their jurisdiction, under the Chairmanship of the Municipal Commissioner. CitiSpace was invited on to the Committee as an expert NGO.

CitiSpace and Tribe@Turf- An RWITC Community Initiative organised 'Breathing Space' – An Exhibition on Mumbai's Reserved Public Open Spaces at the Member's Pavilion Lawns, RWITC, Mahalaxmi race Course, Mumbai on April 14-15, 2012 where exhibition panels displayed over 25 detrimental issues faced by RPOSs in Mumbai and live examples of citizens' struggles in each ward were showcased.

2013-'14

NAGAR was restructured and institutionalized. All its constituents, CitiSpace, Clean Sweep and Clean Air were amalgamated into one single body as 'NAGAR'. Only the issues related to court cases that CitiSpace was involved in and the Expert Committee at MCGM would be dealt with by the former Convenor and Co-convenor of CitiSpace.

As CitiSpace, it had filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court in 1998 (1722 of 1998) with a prayer that the Court direct the MCGM to implement the 1985 Supreme Court Order which had laid down guidelines to allocate vending and non-vending zones in Greater Mumbai. It continued to be in the Courts (both Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court) till 2013 when the Supreme Court gave the final order in this matter.

The Parliament passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 in the winter session of Parliament. Subsequently as per the SC order and the Act a Town Vending Committee (TVC) was formed in Mumbai under the Chairmanship of the Municipal Commissioner to formulate and implement Hawking & Non-Hawking Zones in Greater Mumbai. A NAGAR Trustee was co-opted on it in the NGO category.

2014-'15

NAGAR submitted suggestions & objections to the Draft Development Plan (2014 – 2034) proposed by MCGM; held focus group meetings with citizens and also ventured in the field of Digital Marketing for promoting its stand on the MCGM's Draft Development Plan (2014 – 2034) and NAGAR's programs.

NAGAR displayed its work on public open space and SWM at an exhibition stall and also attended a conference, organized by GuideStar India's "Giving Back – NGO India 2014" event held on September 25-26, 2014. The list of public open space surveyed and the People Public Private Partnership Model submitted to the Prime Minister of India for his Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) was displayed at the stall.

NAGAR initiated the issue of rejuvenation of Forts of Mumbai; a survey was conducted by students of architecture under the supervision of Architect Parul Kumtha. NAGAR networked with various government authorities like Mrs. Valsa Nair-Singh, Principal Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Government of Maharashtra; Mr. S. K. Patil, Director and Dr. Maya Patil, Deputy Director, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums.

The student interns of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan under the guidance of NAGAR's Associate Director Anjali Pandit prepared a People-Public-Private Partnership Model which was uploaded on the Prime Minister's web portal www.mygov.in under the program "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" i.e. Clean India Mission. As an offshoot of this Model, they conducted a ward-wise survey analyzing the functioning of the Solid Waste Management Dept. of MCGM. NAGAR published their work on its website titled as "Solid Waste Management and Handling at the Ward Level in Greater Mumbai – A NAGAR Report (December 10, 2014)".

2015-'16

NAGAR filed a PIL on 4G antennae tower (telecomm. base station) on Reserved Public Open Spaces with other co-petitioners being OVAL Trust and AGNI. The first hearing was held on July 20, 2015 and NAGAR obtained a stay on any further permission being given to such installations till the matter is heard.

NAGAR added a program on Better Policing in January 2015, which was funded by Friedrich Neumann Foundation (FNF). It advocated for a public demand for better policing & Police Reforms; a safe, secure and crime-free environment in Greater Mumbai; an amicable partnership & interaction between the citizens & the Police and addressed issues of public concern with reference to policing. At a Press Conference, a pocket size "Mumbai Police Helpline Directory" was published and functioning of the Virtual police station a programme for public information (prepared by CHRI), demonstrated. Several orientation sessions on Better Policing were conducted in schools and colleges to address the

concerns and doubts of the citizens and encourage an amicable relationship between the Police and the Public.

NAGAR raised concerns over the draft Caretaker Policy concerning public open spaces, which incorporated terms of the erstwhile policy and brought this to the notice of the Chief Minister, resulting in the policy being reconsidered. A Private Members Bill was introduced in the legislature, seeking to amend the law in order to make it a mandatory duty for the MCGM to look after all its own Public Open Spaces and hence guarantee the allotment of funds for this specific purpose and obviate the need to hand over the spaces to private players. It was accepted by the Legislature.

An on-site survey of the forts of Mumbai was published as a book titled "Forts of Mumbai – Abandoned Treasures". The book was released by Ms. Valsa Nair-Singh, Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Government of Maharashtra at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS). The book includes information about the architecture of fort and the biodiversity found around them.

NAGAR was nominated by the Hindustan Times as one of the changemakers for "Mumabi Popular Choice Award" 2015

2016-'17

The first Draft of the Development Plan 2034 was scrapped by the Chief Minister and a Revised Draft Development Plan was prepared. NAGAR wrote letters of suggestions and objections to Mr. R. Balchandran, the Chief Engineer (DP) and Mr. Ramanath Jha highlighting the flaws that still existed

in the RDDP 2034 and certain new additions that were completely unacceptable to the citizens.

NAGAR identified a garden plot near Mahim, given under a caretaker but used for illegal parking and proposed its rejuvenation on a pilot basis. On bringing it to the notice of the Assistant Municipal Commissioner, immediately issued a memo to the caretaker and approved our proposal for rejuvenation. The plan for rejuvenation has been prepared with the help of conservation architects at Nature-Nurture Architects & Planners and is ready for implementation.

Considering the urgent need for a comprehensive SWM policy and keeping in view the recurring fires at the dumping grounds escalating respiratory diseases, NAGAR drafted an "Integrated Solid Waste Management Policy for Greater Mumbai 2016 – 2021" and presented the same to the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM. This policy was to enable a partnership between the people and the MCGM to treat waste in an efficient and scientific manner.

2017-'18

NAGAR submitted its suggestions and objections to the draft Maharashtra Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules, 2015 published on October 07, 2015. NAGAR was invited for a hearing by the Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra, to discuss the suggestions & objections received by the government.

NAGAR was a signatory to an open letter dated November 29, 2017 addressed to the Chief Minister that stated concern for regulation of hawkers in the city of Mumbai. The letter highlighted the "Principles

of Vending Zones & Holding Capacity of Zone” that were to be kept in mind as required by the Central Act 2014 when drafting the Scheme of Street Vending for the Municipal Corporation / Council to be published by the Government of Maharashtra.

NAGAR completed its work on the project report titled “Rejuvenation of the Forts of Mumbai: A Tribute to Our Rich and Varied Heritage” and a conservation architect was enlisted for part of this work. The objective of the report is to advocate the need for conservation of these protected monuments and rejuvenation of their sites as public open spaces and tourist areas.

NAGAR strongly objected to notification regarding inclusion of Mahim Nature Park in the Dharavi Notified Area for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) and demanded it be withdrawn immediately. Asserting that no development or redevelopment can be done on any public open space or green space in Greater Mumbai and that these spaces must remain non-buildable, accessible, open to sky and permeable, NAGAR demanded that MNP must be de-linked from potential development ventures & remain protected as a stand-alone entity unconditionally. The Chief Minister publicly assured that there would be no construction on MNP.

2018-‘19

NAGAR was officially nominated as an NGO member of the Town Vending Committee (Zone-I) which comprises A, B, C, D and E wards. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, NAGAR Trustee represents it at the meetings and has been contributing constructively in the process for demarcating street vending zones as per the guidelines laid down by the

MCGM. Till date, 4 meetings of the Committee have been held. Also, members from all the 7 Zonal TVCs and the 2 members of the Central TVC met to raise concerns regarding irregularity in conducting Zonal TVC meetings, no circulation of guidelines determining hawking & non hawking zones, pitches being marked on the footpaths without the approval of the concerned Zonal TVCs and minutes of the meeting not shared with the members of the respective committees. NAGAR acts as a nodal point of coordination for citizens to decide on a strategy and unite in action on the matters concerning Town Vending Committee and its agenda from time to time.

NAGAR submitted its suggestions and objections to the Layouts of the Excluded Parts of the Island City, Western Suburbs and Eastern Suburbs in the Development Plan 2034 notified in July 2015. NAGAR was invited for a hearing on the same.

NAGAR submitted its suggestions & objections to the draft proposals for development along the Eastern Waterfront (EWF) of Greater Mumbai, including a proposal for a park through reclamation of 90 Ha and the reservation surrounding Sewri fort, and the regulations which govern the protection of Natural Areas, notified by the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) as a Special Planning Authority (SPA). At the hearing, NAGAR stressed upon the importance of ensuring that the land made available to the city must be used for public amenities, and especially public open spaces, as a severe lack of these is felt across the city. It objected to the proposal to reclaim 90 Ha of the sea for a park, due to the fact that reclamation could lead to ecological imbalance, and that public open spaces must be distributed across a layout and not be restricted to a corner.



Photo Credit for all photos : NAGAR

Appreciation

NAGAR sincerely thanks and places on record its appreciation for the support provided by the following organisations, institutions and individuals:

Our Donors:

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

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Nariman Point Churchgate Citizens Association (NPCCA)

Oval Cooperage Residents Association (OCRA)

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Lawyers for pro bono work.

Bankers & Auditors.

NAGAR Associates for their constant support.

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

The Trustees

Mr. Atul Kumar

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Mr. Dinesh Ahir

Mr. Gerson da Cunha

Ms. Kunti Oza

Ms. Meher Rafaat

Ms. Nayana Kathpalia

Ms. Neera Punj

Ms. Parul Kumtha

Executive Committee Members

Mr. Atul Kumar

Mr. Ashok Ravat

Mr. Dinesh Ahir

Mr. Gerson da Cunha

Ms. Meher Rafaat

Ms. Nayana Kathpalia

Ms. Neera Punj

Ms. Parul Kumtha

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