



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

NEWSLETTER 2015-2016

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 features, 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.



4G Cell Towers on Reserved Public Open Spaces

NAGAR has opposed the decision of the State Government and the MCGM to give permission to install 4G antennae towers (TCS/BS) on Reserved Public Open Spaces (RPOS). NAGAR filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on 4G antennae tower (TBS) 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 sought advice from international law firms on installation of 4G cell towers on public open spaces in their jurisdiction. This has been facilitated by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

MCGM is in the process of moving a new policy disallowing 4G towers on RPOS. We are awaiting the final outcome of their efforts.



Public Open Spaces



NAGAR raised concerns about the new policy on public open spaces which has incorporated the Caretaker policy in one of its clauses. NAGAR has brought this to the notice of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and hence, the policy is 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. This would 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 and is awaiting a Cabinet nod.

Draft Development Plan 2014-2034




The Draft Development Plan (2014 – 2034) was proposed by MCGM, to which NAGAR responded with suggestions and objections. NAGAR used the tools of Digital Marketing to disseminate and promote our viewpoint regarding several issues enumerated in the MCGM’s Draft Development Plan (2014 – 2034), drawing on the experience and learnings of our programs over the years. We partnered with Tempus Fugit Pvt. Ltd. and relied on various social media channels namely Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, to make our impact felt. An open letter, urging right action for the City’s future development, written to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra by distinguished citizens, among them Trustees of NAGAR, was published in The Hindustan Times on April 21, 2015.

Street Vendors

NAGAR continued its engagement with hawker issues, especially with reference to the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. NAGAR attended all meetings held by the MCGM & the Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra to discuss the Draft Rules proposed for the Street Vendors' Act and citizens' suggestions and objections to the same.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल.—(एन)04/0007/2003—14 REGISTERED NO. DL—(N)04/0007/2003—14


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The Gazette of India

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इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)
New Delhi, the 5th March, 2014/Phalgun 14, 1935 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 4th March, 2014, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE STREET VENDORS (PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOOD AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING) ACT, 2014
(No. 7 of 2014)

[4th March, 2014.]

An Act to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.



Forts of Mumbai



In an effort to further the cause of Heritage preservation in the City, NAGAR undertook an initiative to rejuvenate the Forts of Mumbai. A survey, conducted by students of architecture under the supervision of Architect Parul Kumtha, resulted in the publication of 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. During this endeavour, NAGAR worked closely with the relevant government authorities like Mrs. Valsa Nair-Singh; S. K. Patil, Director and Dr. Maya Patil, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums.



Better Policing

NAGAR conducted several orientation sessions on Better Policing in schools and colleges. NAGAR realised that the existing modes of approach to and interaction with the Police were daunting to the ordinary citizen, thus preventing an amicable relationship between the Police and the Public. In an effort to rectify this position, NAGAR conducted public meetings in various fora and attempted to address the concerns and doubts of the citizens. NAGAR also published a pocket size “The Mumbai Police Helpline Directory” and demonstrated the functioning of the Virtual police station, a programme for public information (prepared by CHRI), at a Press Conference. NAGAR initiated several meetings with police officials of different ranks and garnered inputs from retired officials, to better understand issues that concern the public vis-a-vis policing.



Meetings and Networking



Ms. Nayana Kathpalia and Ms. Meher Rafaat met Mr. Ramanath Jha to provide NAGAR's inputs for the Revision of the Development Plan (2014 - 2034). Mr. Jha has been appointed by the State Government to revise the latest Development Plan.

NAGAR attended meetings conducted by Moneylife Foundation on the issue of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and was part of a core group that deliberated on this issue. Being part of the group NAGAR met Mr. Ajoy Mehta, the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM to present issues concerning SWM and probable solutions.



Internship at NAGAR



The students of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan were placed with NAGAR for their internship. Working in teams of two they covered two programs – 1. Preservation & Restoration of Water Bodies and Beaches; 2. Water Conservation.

NAGAR was also assisted by two law interns from Jodhpur Law College, one worked on the issue of Street Vending and the other on installation of 4G cell towers on public open spaces. Despite being first year students they made a sizable contribution to the subject.



Internship at NAGAR

Water Bodies

The team working on 'Preservation & Restoration of Water Bodies and Beaches' prepared a case study on status of water bodies in P-North Ward, MCGM's largest ward (area-wise). They also prepared a booklet to guide citizens on what they can do to save, protect & conserve water bodies.



Karjadevi Talao,
Manori,

Bhaujale Talao /
Somwar Bazaar Talao,
Link Road, Malad West



Malwani Talao, near
Malwani church, Malad

Internship at NAGAR

Water Conservation

The team working on 'Water Conservation' made 2 site visits: 1. The Central Railways – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – where Rainwater Harvesting though initiated, was being done haphazardly; 2. K. J. Somaiya College – who have started a successful Rainwater Harvesting project, maintained by the college. The team also prepared slogans and graphics to spread awareness on water conservation and the importance of using this scarce resource judiciously. With support from sponsors, NAGAR hopes to print these as stickers to convey the message and distribute them at appropriate places such as educational Institutions and restaurants across Mumbai.



Appreciation

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

a) Our Donors:

Mahindra & Mahindra;
Family Trust Cowasji
Shavaksha Dinshaw
Adenwalla Trust;
Mr. Cyrus Guzder;
Shri V. V. & Smt. K. V.
Mariwala Charity Trust;
Mr. Ardeshir B. K.
Dubhash;
Seth Purshotam Das
Thakurdas & Divaliba
Charitable Trust;
Organisation Verdant
Ambience & Land Trust
(O.V.A.L. Trust);

Ms. Nina D. Verma;
Mr. Mahesh A. Patel;
Mr. S. K. Nangia;
Mr. Ashok Ravat;
Ms. Silloo Marker

b) ProEngage for
providing volunteers to
work on fund raising for
NAGAR

**c) College of Social
Work, Nirmala Niketan**
for providing students
for their internship with
NAGAR

d) Thomson Reuters
for networking

e) Bankers & Auditors

*Thank
you*



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

Management at NAGAR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Anand Akerkar (Chairman)	D.M. Sukthankar
Dinesh Ahir	Gerson da Cunha
Kunti Oza	Meher Rafaat
Nayana Kathpalia	Neera Punj

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dinesh Ahir	Gerson da Cunha
Meher Rafaat	Nayana Kathpalia
Neera Punj	Ashok Ravat
Atul Kumar	Parul Kumtha

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