



Public Open Spaces



Quality of Air



Water Conservation



Solid Waste Management



Built and Natural Heritage



Water Bodies



Better Policing



Road Space Management

NAGAR Newsletter

2017-18

Awareness Days 2018

January 25 ~ National Tourism Day

March 3 ~ World Wildlife Day

March 14 ~ International Day of Action for Rivers

March 21 ~ International Day of Forests

March 22 ~ World Water Day

March 23 ~ World Meteorological Day

March 29 ~ Earth Hour (08:30 pm)

April 18 ~ International Day for Monuments and Sites

April 7 ~ World Health Day

April 22 ~ International Mother Earth Day

June 5 ~ World Environment Day

Regulation of Street Vending

NAGAR has worked consistently towards advocating for the implementation of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood & Regulation of Vending) Act, 2014, with concerned authorities, at local as well as state level.

November 29, 2017:

To: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

The delay in implementing a scheme for street vendors was pointed out.

Draft Scheme of Street Vending for MCGM which was to be published by GoM in 2014 was highlighted. It never saw the light of the day.

Chapter XV of the Draft Scheme: 'Principles of Vending Zones & Holding Capacity of Zone' was also pointed out to.

It was expressed that guidelines should be according to:

City's Exponential Growth & Its Linear Nature and Topography

NAGAR was a signatory to the above open letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, stating concern for regulation of street vendors in Greater Mumbai.

January 5, 2018:



Nidhi Choudhari @nidhichoudhari · Jan 5

List of 85891 Hawking pitches as per 2015 Survey in Mumbai is now available online on MCGM portal. Citizens are requested to go through and submit their suggestions before 31st January.

There isn't any need to panic. All suggestions/objections are welcome.

27 53 87

Ms. Nidhi Choudhary, DMC (RE), MCGM and Secretary to the Town Vending Committee (TVC) invited suggestions & objections for the proposed 85891 hawker pitches, based on a survey conducted in 2015.

January 9, 2018

To: Ms. Nidhi Choudhari (DMC/RE)

Concern was expressed over the large number of hawking pitches.

It was requested that the guidelines followed for the survey and proposal be shared with the public.

The glaring errors in the proposed list, such as proposed pitches on skywalks and jetties were pointed out.



RTI dated January 9, 2018:

Information obtained indicates MCGM had issued guidelines for demarcation of hawking, non-hawking and restricted hawking zones in September 2015. It is presumed that these were to be followed for the demarcation of the 85891 hawking pitches, despite evident discrepancies.

January 16, 2018:

NAGAR met Ms. Nidhi Choudhary, at a citizen group meeting, and insisted that MCGM must adopt the practice of uploading all agenda and minutes of future meetings of the TVC on their website to ensure transparency.

However, the first meeting itself was extensively delayed, due to several instances of inexplicable postponement.

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

- Jane Jacobs

Regulation of Street Vending

January 24, 2018

To: Ms. Nidhi Choudhari (DMC/RE)

NAGAR's Suggestions and Objections to 85891 Hawking Pitches

Emphasis was on the basic principles laid out in the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 which included the Principles of Vending Zones & Holding Capacity of Zones. MCGM laid these out in the Draft Scheme for Street Vending for the Municipal Corporation/Council.

Emphasis on the judgments of the Supreme Court and the Bombay High Court, which strictly mention where vending zones cannot be provided.

Question on the drastic increase in hawker pitches, that is, 85891, contrary to 22, 097 as earmarked by the three 3 Member Committees set up under the direction of the Supreme Court.

Specific Objections after Scrutiny of the List of Hawker Pitches

1. M G Road in A Ward.
2. Bombay Hospital Road (Vithaldas Thackersey Marg) in A Ward.
3. Skywalk in P/South Ward.
4. Madh Jetty in P/North Ward.
5. Rani Sati (Malad Station FOB)
6. Dahisar River in R/North Ward.
7. Ganesh Gawade Road in T Ward.

NAGAR continues to be involved in all developments concerned with regulation of street vending and takes a proactive stance.

NON-VENDING ZONES

VITAL INSTITUTIONS

Within 100 meters from vital institutions of Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, and other statutory and non-statutory bodies, courts, theaters, auditorium, malls etc



STATION & DEPOT

Within 150 meters from exits/entrances of Railway Stations, Metro stations and Bus Depots



FOOT OVER BRIDGES

No hawking permitted on footbridges and over-bridges



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

Within 100 meters from educational institutes



HOSPITALS

Within 100 meters from hospitals. A restricted number of vendors may be permitted to sell fruits and eatables, however, the entrances and paths of a hospital shall be a non-vending area



Source:

Twitter: @NAGAR_Ngo

Facebook: @nagar.org.in

"All cities are mad: but the madness is gallant. All cities are beautiful, but the beauty is grim."

- Christopher Morley

Public Open Spaces

July 17, 2017: NAGAR’s site visit and proposal for WIT Ground in Mahim has been restructured as a case study of a public open space. to assert its stand that restoration of public open spaces can be done by the MCGM and this was communicated by letter to the Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ajoy Mehta.



Panoramic View of W.I.T. Ground, Mahim

	PROTECTION AND CREATION OF HIGH QUALITY OPEN SPACES THAT REINFORCES LOCAL IDENTITY & CIVIC PRIDE		PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAY AND RECREATION
PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGICAL HABITATS		ENHANCEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTER OF AN AREA, SHAPING EXISTING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	
	IMPROVEMENT OF PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, INCLUDING ACCESSIBILITY		HELP IN MITIGATION OF & ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IN CONROLLING POLLUTION
KEY ASPECTS OF OPEN SPACE POLICY		KEY ASPECTS OF OPEN SPACE POLICY	

February 27, 2018: NAGAR wrote to Chief Minister Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, acting in the interest of public open spaces, and expressed concern over them being compromised by private stakeholders.

July 21, 2017: NAGAR wrote to the Municipal Commissioner objecting to MCGM’s proposed facility of an underground pay & park on a public open space at Byculla. NAGAR continues to take an active stance to oppose this, and is currently in process of procuring information under RTI.

RTI (26.02.2018): Public open spaces in Greater Mumbai where underground pay & park has been provided for and / or proposed.

Response: Redirected further.

RTI (07.02.2018): The Policy framed and presently being implemented by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai to utilize public open spaces, designated as grounds, for non- sport activities.

Response: Received circular dated November 02, 2015 that speaks only about the procedure for issuing outdoor event permissions. Information was not satisfactory.

“The quicker we humans learn that saving open space and wildlife is critical to our welfare and quality of life, maybe we’ll start thinking of doing something about it.”
 -Jim Fowler

Development Plan 2034



Bandra A Block



Parigkhadi



Oshiwara District Centre

Map 2: Maps published as part of the notice for declaring intention to prepare the DP of Three Areas transferred to MCGM

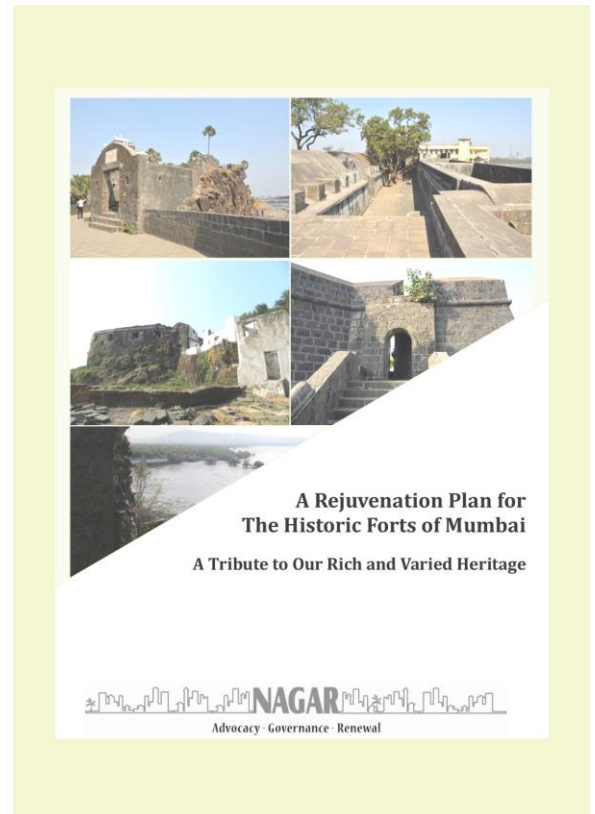
NAGAR sent suggestions and objections to the transfer of three parcels of land – Bandra ‘A’ Block, Oshiwara District Centre and Parigkhadi – from the Special Planning Authority MMRDA to MCGM and their inclusion in the Development Plan 2034. NAGAR was invited for a subsequent hearing where we highlighted the encroachment on these lands, the need to consider Coastal Zone Regulations and the implications of the proposed development on Mithi River.

Forts of Mumbai

NAGAR has been working towards preparing a rejuvenation programme for the forts of Mumbai and has been begun working closely with the relevant government authorities at the Maharashtra State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums and the Archaeological Survey of India (Mumbai Circle).



A Project Report entitled ‘Rejuvenation of the Forts of Mumbai: A Tribute to Our Rich and Varied Heritage’ has been completed and we plan to approach the state government to take this project forward. 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.



Cover Page of the Project Report

“A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic legacies - all of the things that quite literally make us who we are.”

- Steve Barry

Quality of Air



RTI dated 21.12.2017:

Information sought from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) about a comprehensive programme for prevention, control or abatement of air pollution and measures taken for its execution, along with a list of defaulters and action taken against them.

Response: No such plan has been prepared yet.

The RTI has been forwarded to its Sub-Regional Offices at Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Raigad, Navi Mumbai, Nasik, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Amravati and Chandrapur.

A list of defaulters from SRO Offices at Sangli, Amravati, Ratnagiri and Thane have been received.

However, no such list has been received from Mumbai.

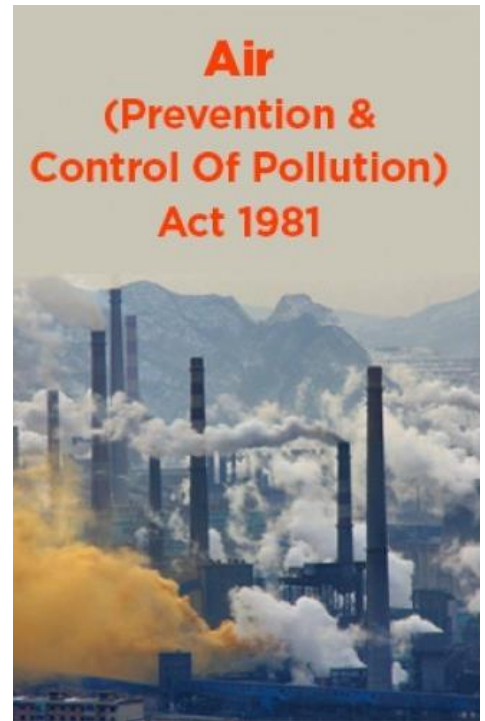


Image Source: KopyKitab

Slum Rehabilitation Authority Matter

NAGAR, as CitiSpace, continues to be approached by the SRA, developers as well as by citizens, wanting an NOC regarding proposed development on reserved public open spaces in projects under the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme as per the Orders of the Bombay High Court Order in WP 1152 of 2002.

As per the Order:

Developers undertaking a Slum Rehabilitation Scheme, sanctioned after 2002, on a Reserved Public Open Space in Greater Mumbai must seek NOC from CitiSpace, fulfilling the following conditions:

The area of the RPOS should not be reduced.

The RPOS can be realigned within the layout to facilitate better planning for the SR Scheme, provided that the shape remains viable and utilizable for its function, and direct access from a DP road is provided to it.

The developer must develop the RPOS, greened, fenced and gated and returned to the MCGM and public after finishing 75% of the project.

It is noteworthy that proposals for four redevelopment projects of BDD Chawls were brought to NAGAR by MHADA for this purpose, despite not being SRA projects.

A digital database of all such cases is being prepared, to maintain a record of all reserved public open spaces which have come under SRA projects, to ascertain whether they have been duly returned to the MCGM for the city and to assist NAGAR in its endeavour to preserve all public open spaces.

"Environment is no one's property to destroy; it's everyone's responsibility to protect."

- Mohith Agadi

Response to Public Notifications

Proposed Modification in the Sanctioned Planning Proposals in Sector-5 of Dharavi Notified Area, dated 05.03.2018

The said notification was regarding inclusion of Mahim Nature Park (MNP) in the Dharavi Notified Area for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP).



Send in your Suggestions and Objections, as per the Notice, to #SaveMNP



NAGAR objected to the notification and demanded its withdrawal immediately.

MNP must be delinked from potential development ventures and be legally protected as a standalone entity.

The importance of public open spaces was highlighted by mentioning the dismal lack of such spaces in Mumbai as per national norms.

Concern was expressed over potential utilisation of FSI from MNP for DRP as well as a possible compromise of public open spaces within the layout of the DRP, both highly inadvisable.

In the months of February and March, various government authorities issued several such notifications, inviting suggestions and objections which proposed changes in regulations which would adversely affect holistic development in Mumbai.

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Notification regarding amendment of Draft Notification for Environmental Clearance of Buildings & Construction Proposals

Notification:

Dated 13.03.2018

Built-Up Area for Environmental Clearance;
Existing Threshold: 20 000 sq. m.
Proposed Threshold: 50 000 sq. m.

This pertains to all building projects and activities except industrial sheds, universities, college, hostel for educational institutes).

Conditions related to environment to be fulfilled for a project were also specified.

NAGAR's Response:

Built-Up Area Threshold for Environmental Clearance should not be raised, and this proposal is drastic.

Concern was raised over the environmental impact of this proposal across the country as it applies to multifarious project types.

The conditions given were studied and found to be generic and could not be found applicable to Mumbai, as microclimate has not been taken into consideration.

"I am glad I will not be young in a future without wilderness."

- Aldo Leopold



Advocacy Governance Renewal

Response to Public Notifications

Several notifications published by the Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra cited Section 37 (1AA) of the MR&TP Act, to justify arbitrary modifications ‘in public interest’ and as ‘urgent’.

NAGAR has objected to such injudicious usage of the Section and questioned its applicability.

Proposed Modification to DCR regarding Accommodation Reservation Principle

Dated 16.03.2018

- Recreational and educational reservations can be developed in parts.
- Relaxation of side margins for utilization of *‘in situ FSI and TDR on the entire plot for the remaining plot.’*

Proposed Modification to Regulation 33(14) of DCR regarding Regulations for Construction of Transit Camps

Dated 09.02.2018

- Additional FSI can be availed in lieu of Permanent Transit Camp Tenements and Rental Housing.

New Regulation to Allow Additional FSI for Pradhan Mantri Aawaas Yojana

Dated 26.02.2018

- Affordable Housing under Pradhan Mantri Aawaas Yojana for EWS & LIG will be permissible in Agricultural/No-Developable Zones.

NAGAR objected to such development in parts, emphasizing on the need for holistic development.

The importance of side margins for liveability and safety was also highlighted and the proposed regulation for their relaxation was objected to.

NAGAR objected to the drastic increase of FSI in Island City (3), and Suburbs (4), citing presently lacking infrastructural needs.

NAGAR also stated that Transit Camps and Rental Housing differ in nature and should not be governed by a single regulation.

NAGAR suggested that reserved public open spaces be included within the list of land uses where such development is Impermissible, which already includes forest lands, orchards, green belt zones, mangroves, etc.

Government of Maharashtra GR, dated 21.03.2018

The said Government Resolution is regarding a Committee constituted for studying 'Floating TDR' and suggesting measures to release floating TDR for the development of the protected land in possession with Central & State controlled Railway, Defence, Heritage, CRZ, Courts & Jail, National Parks, Roads and Highways, Ports, Forts, Public enterprise and to buy & sell the floating TDR by legal means to raise funds for various developmental schemes of the government.

NAGAR raised concern over the constitution of this committee, as such protected land has no intrinsic development potential, thereby consideration of TDR is indicative of development for the sake of it, and is questionable.

“The power of the people is much stronger than the people in power.”

- Wael Ghonim

Solid Waste Management

NAGAR visited the MCGM's Vermi-composting project at Cooper hospital run by "Aastha" women's Self-Help Group (SHG). It is an initiative of the K-West ward under Swachh Bharat Mission. Mr. Subhash Dalvi, OSD (SWM) has been guiding the SHG in this project.



MCGM's Vermi-composting project at Cooper hospital run by "Aastha" women's Self-Help Group
Image Source: NAGAR

Better Policing

NAGAR has initiated an awareness campaign on traffic rules and responsibilities of authorities as well as citizens, through its social media platforms- Facebook and Twitter.



Source:
Twitter: @NAGAR_Ngo
Facebook: @nagar.org.in



Source:
Twitter: @NAGAR_Ngo
Facebook: @nagar.org.in

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead

MITHI RIVER

Image Source: DNA India

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS 2018

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DAHISAR RIVER

Image Source: NDTV

ACT BEFORE WE LOSE THE RIVERS OF MUMBAI

GREEN BUFFER

Maintaining a mandatory green buffer of 6 meters on both banks of the river is important from planning & ecological perspective to avert disasters such as flooding

OSHIWARA RIVER

Image Source: Mid-Day

DUTY OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

S. 61 (ab) of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act states that it shall be incumbent on the Corporation to make adequate provision for urban forestry, protection of environment and promotion of ecological aspects

POISAR RIVER

Image Source: DNA India

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mahim bay area, where Mithi river meets Arabian sea, is a nominated bird sanctuary called "Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary" where migratory birds come for nesting. Full of mangroves, this fragile ecosystem requires protection from pollution and encroachment

NAGAR
Advocacy · Governance · Renewal

NAGAR is working in association with volunteers from Tata ProEngage towards active promotion of projects on social media platforms, along with awareness of NAGAR's objectives, where currently, the content is jointly produced and shared, while the action plan involves NAGAR adopting the measures into its regular activities.

NAGAR attended a panel discussion on 'Mumbai Goes Electric' conducted by MP Ensystems, BlobCity & ThinkTag. It was regarding electrifying Mumbai's public transport.

NAGAR attended MCGM's Solid Waste Management Exhibition at National Sports Club of India, Worli.

NAGAR attended a talk by Mr. Ajoy Mehta, Municipal Commissioner, MCGM at ORF, Mumbai where he spoke about MCGM's budget 2018 – 2019: Matching Finances & Functions post-GST.

"The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved."

- Richard Rogers

Networking

NAGAR trustee, Nayana Kathpalia made a presentation about ‘Citizen’s Involvement Initiative: The Fight for Public Open Spaces’ at the ‘The Inclusion Project’ organised by our Parul Kumtha, Principal Architect, Nature Nurture Architects, also a NAGAR trustee, at Sir J. J. College of Architecture.



Image Source: NN Architects & Planners

NAGAR Associate Director, Anjali Pandit delivered a lecture on ‘Sustainable Urban Ecology & Environment’ at the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Goregaon for the students pursuing a Post-Graduate Diploma course in Corporate Social Responsibility.

NAGAR trustees Gerson da Cunha and Nayana Kathpalia attended a RTI meet arranged by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi at Moneylife's office in Dadar.



Cover Images courtesy: MCGM, www.india.com, IIT Bombay, Mumbai Data, KC Green Revolution, Freepik, Stock Vector

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

- Robert Swan

Appreciation

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

Our Donors:

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
Family Trust Cowasji Shavaksha Dinshaw Adenwalla Trust.
Seth Purshotam Das Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust.
Ms. Shirin K. Bharucha.
Mr. Mahesh A. Patel.

Lawyers for pro bono work.
Bankers & Auditors.

Funding Required

The tiny group of change-makers who laid the groundwork for NAGAR continues to face 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

"It is our collective and individual responsibility... to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live."

- His Holiness Dalai Lama

Management of NAGAR:

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

The Trustees are

- ❖ Mr. Anand Akerkar
- ❖ Mr. Atul Kumar
- ❖ Mr. D. M. Sukthankar
- ❖ 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 are:

- ❖ 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

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, heritage places, efficient road space management, better policing and water conservation. Its creed has been strong and consistent advocacy with Government and its agencies for better implementation of existing laws, suggesting 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.

"Society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy."

-John Sawhill

Awareness Days 2018



July 26 ~ International Day for the Conservation
of the Mangrove Ecosystem

September 5 ~ International Day of Charity

September 15 ~ International Day of Democracy

September 21 ~ Zero Emissions Day

September 25 ~ Social Justice Day

September 26 ~ World Environmental Health Day

October 3 ~ World Nature Day

October 31 ~ World Cities Day

December 2 ~ National Pollution Control Day

December 14 ~
National Energy Conservation Day





Fort Walls at Sewri overlooking the Mangroves and Flamingos along the Eastern Coast of Mumbai

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

- Anne Frank



Contact Details

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