



## Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

### REPORT OF NAGAR'S ACTIVITIES (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022)

The NAGAR report for the financial year **April 01, 2021 – March 31, 2022** comprises, as always, its own work and the work it has done in affiliation with others.

#### 1. Public Open Spaces

- Proposed project: GIS mapping of Public Open Spaces

Initially, a proposal of interactive website for Public Open Spaces was proposed. It was scrapped and instead, a new proposal of GIS mapping has been proposed. NAGAR had two meetings with UDRI to discuss the proposal for GIS mapping of Public Open Spaces and probable collaboration with UDRI to share NAGAR'S data on UDRI's 'login Mumbai' portal. NAGAR's data on A ward public open spaces has been shared with UDRI as a sample. On behalf of NAGAR, Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, Ms. Parul Kumtha, Trustees, Ms. Anjali Pandit, Executive Director and Ar. Aashlesha Maslekar, Programme Coordinator and from UDRI, Ms. Anuradha Parmar, Executive Director and Ar. Manish Sharma, GIS expert attended both the meetings.

At the second meeting, Ar. Sharma presented a detailed structure on the basis of which public open spaces review survey can be conducted. It was very comprehensive and detailed. It was emailed to NAGAR for inputs and understanding. NAGAR shared with UDRI its survey of Horniman Circle Garden, Cooperage Garden, Oval maidan, Cross maidan and Azad maidan from A ward public open spaces to assess whether it covers Ar. Sharma's comprehensive list.

- Status review of Public Open Spaces

NAGAR is doing a gap-analysis of all the CitiSpace final surveyed public open spaces by comparing them with the official MCGM public open spaces list (DP 1991 and DP 2034). This will be beneficial for the Public Open Spaces status review project for GIS portal. Out of 24 wards, the data of 9 wards in the Island City, 5 wards in Western Suburbs and 2 wards in the Eastern Suburbs have been

compared and listed. This comprehensive list is being classified in two categories, one, gaps in open spaces data due to probability of new data available and two, those open spaces which will be surveyed for the first time.

- Comprehensive document on Public Open Spaces

NAGAR plans to prepare a comprehensive document on Public Open Spaces studying all the work it has done in the past 20 years. For instance, its comprehensive work on public open spaces policy [w.r.t. WP 1152 of 2002 (SRA case), installation of 4G antennae on open spaces, acquisition of private POSs, ad-hoc permissions given for misuse of POSs, no actual data available on RPOSs, no data available on all open spaces (e.g., SGNP), policies - DCPR reservation, MCGM policies for different authorities for managing open spaces, open spaces coming up on coastal road] and linking these with the COVID pandemic. Till date, NAGAR has compiled data on all the material related to the WP 1152 of 2002 (SRA case), installation of 4G antennae on open spaces to prepare a comprehensive document on Public Open Spaces.

- Open Spaces matters

NAGAR wrote to Mr. I. S. Chahal, Municipal Commissioner, MCGM in response to an article published in Times of India dated January 12, 2022 about the MCGM planning to agree to the inadequate, low bids submitted by contractors to its tender regarding maintenance of parks and gardens. NAGAR stated in the letter that such a step by MCGM would lead to neglect and very poor maintenance of the open spaces, including the horticulture element, thus depriving the citizens of the pleasure of well-preserved parks and gardens. NAGAR suggested that during the one-year tenure of the current contracts a mechanism of oversight and audit of these open spaces be put in place at the Ward level.

- SRA matters

WP 1152 of 2002

The Bombay High Court granted amendment to WP 1152 of 2002 and allowed to seek further interim relief after filing the amended writ petition.

- Data on slum hutments, SRA cases

NAGAR visited various wards offices to collect data on slum hutments. It was found that the Assistant Commissioner (Removal Encroachments) has instructed his staff to digitally compile ward-wise slum related data. The compilation work of slum data since 1976 is being done from the first week of March 2022 by the AMC (Removal of Encroachments). NAGAR has obtained slum data for A, B and E wards from the E ward Colony officer. However, it is a cumbersome task to visit the colony officers of all the wards to obtain the data. The Collector of Mumbai City and Suburban, MHADA and MMRDA have their own slum records as well. Hence, we need data for SRA case from these authorities, if needed.

NAGAR digitally recorded details of all the SRA cases, orders and proposals with the present status of the case and specifications of name of the scheme, developer, area of open space involved/saved, number of slum dwellers or tenements/hutments, whether the proposal was approved or objected by CitiSpace (NAGAR) and significant remarks. This ascertained that CitiSpace has 42.6 acres were returned back to the city through the deliberation process followed as directed by the Bombay High Court in WP 1152 of 2002.

- Individual plots

NAGAR wrote to Deputy Legal Advisor, SRA to urgently issue a stop work notice to the Developer constructing on the plot bearing CTS no. 373, reserved as Garden/Park as per DP 2034, admeasuring 6203.25 sq. m. The LOI was granted by the SRA when there was an interim stay on in situ redevelopment on open spaces by virtue of the orders of the Bombay High Court in WP 1152 of 2002.

NAGAR filed an RTI application, on behalf of Oval Trust, to seek details of cricket pitches on Oval Maidan leased by the Government of Maharashtra.

## 2. Solid Waste Management

- No activities were conducted.

## 3. Quality of Air

- At a focus group meeting, discussion on linking quality of air and climate change took place. For instance, Navy Nagar with least vehicles is most polluted in the city due to climatic factors and emissions from the ship in the Mumbai harbour; mitigation of dust in construction debris; escalating respiratory diseases and other public health issues.
- Ms. Anjali Pandit was invited to a focus group discussion to review the Mumbai Clean Air Action Plan, conducted by Waatavaran at BNHS, Hornbill House. Following points emerged from the meeting:
  - To track and ensure the timely implementation of the Mumbai Clean Air Action Plan.
  - To revive the Area Sabha and Advanced Locality Management (ALM) to work on a decentralised waste management plan.
  - To identify and assess which of the action points don't work (including mechanical sweepers, WAYU filters, etc). To collate a set of recommendations based on the assessment and submit to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
  - To track the allocation, release and utilisation of budgets for the Mumbai Clean Air Action Plan.
  - To increase awareness amongst citizen groups.

- Ms. Pandit attended an online lecture delivered by Dr. Pallavi Pant, Senior Scientist, Health Effects Institute. She spoke on “Global Burden of Disease from Major Air Pollution Sources”. This report states that “integrating air quality, energy & climate policies can bring substantial health benefits”. Globally, it is estimated that air pollution is responsible for 3.1 million premature deaths worldwide every year and 3.2% of the global burden of disease.

#### 4. Water Bodies

- No activities were conducted.

#### 5. Historic Built and Natural Heritage

- Rejuvenation of Forts of Mumbai

A virtual meeting was held with the MHCC on 02.02.2022 to discuss the Sewri fort rejuvenation and they have, in principle, given approval for the project. The MCGM officials conducted this meeting.

NAGAR is pursuing the matter with the F-South ward office for rejuvenation of Sewri fort. Meetings were held with the Assistant Municipal Commissioner, F-South Ward, Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Zone-II) and the concerned officials of the F-South ward office to present the plan and discuss the way ahead. A site visit was conducted as well. After an internal NAGAR meeting, now NAGAR will advocate with the MCGM for cleaning up of the peripheral area of the Sewri fort and installation of approach road signages. It will also advocate for removal of encroachment around the Fort. NAGAR will ascertain the nature of signages proposed by the Directorate to avert duplication of signages in the buffer area.

The Assistant Municipal Commissioner, F-South Ward has written to the Chairman, MbPT for obtaining an NOC “to carry the rejuvenation and beautification work”. road signages. It will also advocate for removal of

encroachment around the Fort. NAGAR will ascertain the nature of signages proposed by the Directorate to avert duplication of signages in the buffer area. We are awaiting a response from the MbPT.

Raising CSR funds for restoration of forts or its peripheral area was considered. However, it was agreed upon that it is not a feasible project. The Trustees are of the view that NAGAR does not have any role to play as the restoration of forts is being done by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums and the peripheral area would not require a big amount to pitch for CSR funds.

## 6. Water Conservation

- No activities were conducted.

## 7. Road Space Management

- Proposal for Accessibility Audit of Municipal Toilets

NAGAR plans to conduct an accessibility audit of municipal toilets. Some pointers were discussed at a virtual meeting to gather information and propose a concrete project to the funders. The meeting was attended by Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, Ms. Parul Kumtha, NAGAR Trustees and Ms. Anjali Pandit, Executive Director and Aashlesha Maslekar, Programme Coordinator. The points discussed were the definition / criteria for differently abled to be used for our audit; identification of the area / ward / area within a specific ward for our audit, the no. of MCGM toilets within the target area; survey of the differently abled, based on the criteria for our audit, who access these toilets or for that matter any toilet – sample size for the same and type of questions for the survey. Some examples have to be incorporated in the proposal to indicate the concreteness of the project; provisions expected from the MCGM; clarity on the nature of recommendations we plan to incorporate in our audit report. The discussion was concluded with following decisions:

- ✓ Definition / criteria for differently abled to be used for our audit: It will be taken from the "Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for barrier-free built environment for Person with Disability and Elderly persons" published by Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.
- ✓ Identification of the area / ward / area within a specific ward for our audit, the no. of MCGM toilets within the target area: It was decided that 24 toilets from 24 wards will be chosen.
- ✓ Survey of the differently abled, based on the criteria for our audit, who access these toilets or for that matter any toilet – sample size for the same and type of questions for the survey: Ms. Kumtha stated that a separate survey was not required as the Consultants will incorporate responses from the target group in the audit.
- ✓ Provisions expected from the MCGM: It will be discussed after the findings of the audit.
- ✓ Clarity on the nature of recommendations we plan to incorporate in our audit report: It will be ascertained after the findings of the audit.

An email was sent to the Deputy Chief Engineer, SWM (Planning) to obtain a latest list of Municipal Toilets & find out whether the MCGM has any guidelines & interventions or criteria to construct municipal toilets for the differently abled. The matter was pursued with an RTI. In response, NAGAR received the latest list of Municipal Toilets and also measures taken to build disabled-friendly toilets.

- Signage plan for Mumbai

NAGAR is considering a project on proposing uniform signages throughout the city, i.e., giving an identity to Mumbai through signages. This was briefly discussed at a focus group meeting. Two volumes, each on Street Furniture and Signage system commissioned by MCGM prepared by Anuprita & Aparna Surve (2001) has been shared with Mr. Atul Kumar, NAGAR Trustee. There has been no further discussion on the proposed project.

- Street Vendors

All zonal TVC members met with Mr. Sanjay Pandey, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai to update him on the TVC issues and inform him that hawking zones have been approved and eligible hawkers have been registered by the MCGM, even the hawker pitches have been marked. However, the MCGM has not yet provided vending certificates and identity cards. Mr. Pandey has written to the Municipal Commissioner stating that "as per the approved list of eligible hawkers vending certificates and identity cards be issued to them, so that menace of hawkers on the streets can be controlled." NAGAR has a copy of the letter written by the Commissioner of Police to the Municipal Commissioner.

**Related to Trust:**

- NAGAR's Leave & License Agreement with Mahindra & Mahindra was renewed for another 3 years, i.e., from January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2024. It was signed by Dinesh Ahir, Trustee, NAGAR.
- Mr. Dinesh Ahir, NAGAR Trustee, submitted the original copies of the Trust certificate, 12A Certificate and Memorandum of Association. However, the original copy of the Society Registration Certificate is neither available at the NAGAR office nor can be found with the Trustees.
- NAGAR received its new PAN card.
- NAGAR availed a net banking facility to its savings account with the Bank of India.
- An Annual Maintenance Contract for NAGAR's website was renewed with Mr. Rodney D'Souza for a period of 3 years, i.e., from January 2022 to December 2024 at the total cost of Rs. 48,000/-
- NAGAR retrieved data from two old desktops and stored it into a 1.5 GB Hard drive which is kept at the NAGAR office. These assembled non-functional desktops were sold to a GCS technician by NAGAR.
- An Annual Maintenance Contract for NAGAR's two desktops was signed with Real Infotechnologies Pvt. Ltd. for a period of one year, i.e., from 14.02.2022 to 13.02.2023 at the total cost of Rs. 6,490/-



- The original copy of the Society Registration Certificate is neither available at the NAGAR office nor can be found with the Trustees. Office needs it for its record as an official document.

**Administration:**

- Daily compilation of news clippings from 11 English and 6 Marathi newspapers, relevant to NAGAR's programmes are documented.
- Posts on social media on open spaces, noise pollution, initiatives by Mumbai Police – "Sunday Streets", international days, Mumbai Climate Action Plan, NAGAR's suggestion on oversight committee on Public Open Spaces and other news articles.

**Accounts:**

- Bank balance as on **March 05, 2022** is ₹ **1,00,838.62/-**
- NAGAR is in the process of preparing its budget for FY 2022-2023. It plans to undertake two projects for the next FY, one on accessibility audit of Municipal toilets and another on status review of public open spaces, along with GIS system for open spaces in collaboration with UDRI.

**Management of NAGAR:**

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

The Trustees are:

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

Executive Committee Members are:

1. Mr. Atul Kumar
2. Mr. Ashok Ravat
3. Mr. Dinesh Ahir
4. Ms. Meher Razaat
5. Ms. Nayana Kathpalia
6. Ms. Neera Punj
7. Ms. Parul Kumtha

**Appreciation:**

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

**a) Our Donors:**

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.  
Seth Purushottam Das Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust  
Indu P. Saraiya  
Silloo Marker  
Seth Purshotamdas Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust  
Julius Pereira  
Cyrus Jamshed Guzder

**b) Lawyers for pro bono work**

**c) Bankers & Auditors**

  
**Dinesh Ahir**  
**Trustee**

**March 31, 2022**