



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

Shri Devendra Fadnavis  
Chief Minister, Maharashtra  
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400021

सिद्धि 12/2/15  
मुख्यमंत्री सचिवालय  
मंत्रालय, मुंबई-४००११९

February 12, 2015

Dear Shri Fadnavis,

**Urgent need for a Comprehensive Open Space Policy for Greater Mumbai**

Open Spaces provide immeasurable social, health, economic and environmental benefits to individuals and the community at large. In an urban scenario, the increasing densities and population growth, coupled with the steady depletion of resources, make well designed and diverse open spaces an imperative to ensure the life of and livability in a city.

In Mumbai the importance of such spaces has been recognized by the Government of Maharashtra which constituted, by its Resolution No BMC/2512/CR No 953/ Ud-21 dated 3rd November, 2012, a Committee to formulate a uniform policy regarding proper planning & development of open spaces in Mumbai Municipal Corporation's limits under the Chairmanship of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM. The officials and experts on this Committee were: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister; Personal Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister; Personal Secretary to Minister of State (Urban Development); Secretary, PWD; Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA; CEO, MHADA; CEO, MIDC; Managing Director, MSRDC; Consultants, DP 2014-1034; P. K. Das, Architect; CitiSpace (now NAGAR); Neera Adarkar, Architect, Debi Goenka, CAT. (copy enclosed).

The draft recommendations of this Committee, circulated in August 2014 to all its members for their comments and inputs, detail the importance of increasing both the quantity and quality of open spaces in Greater Mumbai. This is a sentiment which you have often echoed in your speeches.

Despite this, we are perturbed at the spate of ad hoc policies which, in essence, reduce the already dismal ratio of usable open space available in the city. Mumbai today has a miniscule ratio of 1.24sq m of open space for every citizen of our city as opposed to the mandated ratio of 3sq m per person of the National Building code (NBC)

Amongst such negative policies on Reserved Public Open Spaces are the Slum Rehabilitation Policy and the more recent policies permitting 4G Cell towers and 45 days of non-sporting activities on Playgrounds. (relevant documents enclosed)

The need of the hour is a holistic vision with commensurate planning and implementation to create a Mumbai which provides an enhanced quality of life for its residents and visitors. This automatically creates a conducive and attractive environment for the growth of Mumbai as a 'global financial, commercial and entertainment hub' of India.

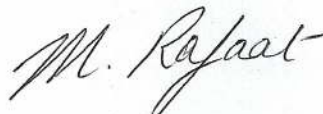
We at NAGAR urge you to make this comprehensive report the basis for formulating the Open Spaces Policy for Greater Mumbai keeping a long-term city and citizen friendly vision in mind.

We would be happy to extend all cooperation in formulating a policy for our fair city and would like to come and meet you in this connection. Please do give us an early appointment. We will be in touch with your office.

Yours sincerely



**Nayana Kathpalia**



**Meher Rafaat**

On behalf of All Trustees

**Anand Akerkar**  
**Kunti Oza**

**D M Sukthankar**  
**Meher Rafaat**

**Dinesh Ahir**  
**Nayana Kathpalia**

**Gerson da Cunha**  
**Neera Punj**

**Encl: as above**

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI**

No. Dir/E.S.&P/434/PK dt. 08-12-2012

Office of the  
Director (Engineering Services & Projects)  
Municipal Head Office,  
Annexe Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor,  
Mahapalika Marg, Fort,  
Mumbai - 400 001.  
☎ 22621387 (P)  
☎ 22620251 Ext.2300 (O)  
Fax : 22620736  
Email ID : director.esp@mcmgm.gov.in

To,

1. City Space (Expert)  
Sankalp Bldg., 5<sup>th</sup> floor,  
J.A.Rahul Marg, Off.Sayani Road,  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025.
2. Smt. Meera Adarkar (Expert), Architect,  
Room No.604, Plot No.146,  
Buildage House, Veer Savarkar Marg,  
Mahim, Mumbai - 400 016.

**Sub :- First Meeting of Uniform Policy for proper planning & development of open spaces in Mumbai Municipal Corporation's limits.**

Sir,

1. The Government of Maharashtra by its Resolution No.बीएमसी/२५९२/प्र.क्र.१५३/नवि-२९ dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2012 have constituted a Committee to formulate a uniform policy regarding proper planning & development of open spaces in Mumbai Municipal Corporation's limits under the Chairmanship of the Municipal Commissioner, MCGM. The copy of the Govt. resolution is enclosed for ready reference.
2. As per the Govt. resolution, the Municipal Commissioner is at liberty to invite two additional experts as Members of the Committee.
3. The first meeting was held on 29.11.2012 at 11.00 a.m. when it was decided to invite experts who have already carried out significant work in this field. The Committee has, therefore, decided to invite you as a Member Invitee for providing the relevant inputs to enable the Committee to evolve a composite policy.

As your organization has already carried out considerable work in this field, you are, therefore kindly requested :-

- (a) to share the data of open space available with your organization along with Maps available in this respect.
- (b) to share the studies undertaken by your organization in this field including copies of study reports prepared and published, if any.
- (c) to submit a 15 minute power point presentation on Sr.No.(a) & (b) above.

The aforesaid data should be forwarded to the undersigned within 15 days. The date for making a power point presentation to the Committee will be separately intimated to your organization well in advance.

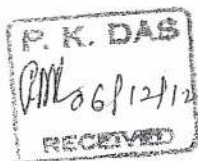
For further correspondence, you are requested to contact Chief Engineer (Development Plan)'s office, M.C.G.M. whose address is as below :-

Office of Chief Engineer (Development Plan),  
Municipal Corporation of Gr.Mumbai,  
Municipal Head Office, Annexe Bldg.,  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai - 400 001.  
Tel No. 22620075 (Direct),  
22620251 Extn.2500 (Board Line)  
Email ID - chedevp@gmail.com  
Thanking You,

Recd.  
on 10/12/12

Yours faithfully,

Director (Engineering Services & Projects)/c.



बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका क्षेत्रातील खुल्या  
जागांच्या योग्य नियोजन व वापराकरिता  
व्यापक व एकात्मिक धोरण तयार  
करणेबाबत

महाराष्ट्र शासन  
नगर विकास विभाग

शासन निर्णय क्र. बीएमसी-२५१२/प्र.क्र.१५३/नवि-२१

मंत्रालय, मुंबई- ४०० ०३२.

दिनांक :- ३ नोव्हेंबर, २०१२

DMC(MCO)

Pl. convene first meeting  
by the end of this month. 4

**प्रस्तावना :** मुख्य सचिव, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखाली दिनांक ०१.०९.२०१२ रोजी मुंबई ट्रान्सफॉर्मेशनच्या शक्ती प्रदान समितीच्या ३८ व्या बैठकीमध्ये बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका क्षेत्रातील बांधकामासाठी नाहीत अशा निश्चित केलेल्या सर्व खुल्या जागांचे योग्य नियोजनाकरिता आराखडा तयार करून धोरण तयार करण्याकरीता समिती स्थापन करण्याबाबतचा निर्णय घेण्यात आला आहे. त्यानुषंगाने समिती स्थापन करण्याचा प्रस्ताव शासनाच्या विचाराधीन होता. आता प्रस्तुत प्रकरणी खालीलप्रमाणे निर्णय घेण्यात येत आहे.

**शासन निर्णय :** बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका क्षेत्रातील बांधकामासाठी नाहीत अशा निश्चित केलेल्या सर्व खुल्या जागांचा व्यापक व एकात्मिक आराखडा तयार करून धोरण तयार करण्याकरीता खालीलप्रमाणे समिती गठीत करण्यात येत आहे :-

BMC	१	आयुक्त, बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका	अध्यक्ष
MMA	२	महानगर आयुक्त, मुंबई महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण यांनी प्राधिकृत केलेले किमान अतिरिक्त आयुक्त दर्जाचे अधिकारी	सदस्य
PWD	३	सचिव, सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग यांनी प्राधिकृत केलेले मुख्य अभियंता दर्जाचे अधिकारी	सदस्य
MAHDA	४.	मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र गृह निर्माण व क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकरण किंवा त्यांनी प्राधिकृत केल्यास मुंबई बोर्डाचे मुख्य अधिकारी	सदस्य
MSRDC	५.	व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य रस्ते विकास महामंडळ किंवा त्यांनी प्राधिकृत केलेले सह व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक/ तांत्रिक संचालक	सदस्य
MIDC	६.	मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र औद्योगिक विकास महामंडळ	सदस्य
	७.	श्री. प्रणब किशोर दास, वास्तुविशारद	आमंत्रित तज्ञ
BMC	८.	बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेचे संचालक (अभियांत्रिकी)	सदस्य सचिव

**नोंद :-** सदस्यांचे प्रतिनिधी हे प्रमुख अभियंता किंवा त्या पदापेक्षा वरील पदाचे अधिकारी असावेत.

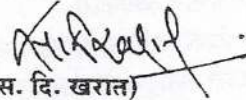
आयुक्त, बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका यांना त्यांच्या आवश्यकतेनुसार दोन अतिरिक्त तज्ञांना आमंत्रित करण्याची मुभा राहिल.

सदर समितीची कार्यकक्षा खालीलप्रमाणे राहिल :-

१. खुल्या जागांचा व्यापक व एकात्मिक आराखडा तयार करणे, शहरातील खुल्या जागांची माहिती जमा करणे, वेगवेगळ्या खुल्या जागांच्या नकाशांचा उपयोग करणे, आवश्यकतेनुसार वेळोवेळी सव्हे करणे व भेटी देणे.
२. या संदर्भातील वेगवेगळ्या बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेच्या किंवा इतर मुंबईतील विकास प्राधिकरणांच्या धोरणांचा आढावा घेणे.
३. या संदर्भातील केंद्र शासनाच्या व राज्य शासनाच्या विविध धोरणांचा तुलनात्मक अभ्यास करून त्या अनुषंगाने योग्य शिफारशी करणे.
४. मा. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय / उच्च न्यायालयाच्या आदेशांचा व निर्देशांच्या धोरणांचा तुलनात्मक अभ्यास करून त्या अनुषंगाने योग्य शिफारशी करणे.
५. विविध खुल्या जागांचे नियोजन आणि संवर्धनाबाबत शासकीय आणि अशासकीय संस्थांच्या धोरणांचा तुलनात्मक अभ्यास करून त्यानुषंगाने योग्य शिफारशी करणे.
६. राष्ट्रीय व आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावरील मोकळ्या जागेच्या नियोजन आराखडा व धोरण यांचा तुलनात्मक अभ्यास करून त्या अनुषंगाने योग्य शिफारशी करणे.

सदर समितीने तीन महिन्यांच्या मुदतीत आपला अहवाल शासनास सादर करावा.

महाराष्ट्राचे राज्यपाल यांच्या आदेशानुसार व नावाने.

  
(स. दि. खरात)  
अवर सचिव

प्रत अग्रेषित,

१. मा. मुख्यमंत्री यांचे प्रधान सचिव, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२
२. मा. उपमुख्यमंत्री यांचे खाजगी सचिव, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२
३. मा. राज्यमंत्री (नगर विकास) यांचे खाजगी सचिव, मुंबई-३२
४. सचिव, सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२
५. महानगर आयुक्त, मुंबई महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण, मुंबई
६. आयुक्त, बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका, मुंबई
७. मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र गृह निर्माण व क्षेत्रविकास, मुंबई
८. मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र औद्योगिक विकास महामंडळ, मुंबई
९. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य रस्ते विकास महामंडळ, मुंबई.
१०. श्री. प्रणब किशोर दास, वास्तुविशारद, पी.के. दास अॅण्ड असोसिएट्स संकल्प, ५ वा मजला, प्लॉट क्र.१०४० सयानी रोड, प्रभादेवी, मुंबई-४०००२५
११. सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२
१२. कार्यासन नवि/२१, निवड नस्ती.

SRA ORDER 1

2002 Cr.P.

15/07/02

19425

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION.

Ad Copy R. 13-00

Additional Rs. :

145

WRIT PETITION NO. 1152 OF 2002

Total Rs. -

495

CitySpace And Others.

..Petitioners.

V/S

The State of Maharashtra & Ors

..Respondents

Mr.S.A.Diwan i/b Thakore Jariwala & Associates for  
Petitioners.

Ms.M.Kajale for Respondent 1.

Mr.S.G.Surana for Respondent 2.

Ms.A.K.Savla for Respondent 3.

CORAM: A.P.SHAH &

SMT.RANJANA.DESAI, JJ.

DATED: 31ST JULY, 2002.

P.C. :

Heard parties.

2. Respondent no.2 is directed to file an affidavit disclosing necessary information as claimed in prayer clauses (c)(i) to (xiii) of the writ petition.

3. Adjourned for four weeks In the meantime; until further orders, no new rehabilitation scheme be sanctioned without the permission of this Court in

respect of the open spaces which are reserved for gardens, parks, playgrounds, recreational spaces, maidans, no-development zones, pavements, roads and carriageways.



CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

This 17 day of Sept 2012

For Prothonotary and Senior Master

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

## ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

## WRIT PETITION NO.1152 OF 2002

Citispace and others

).. Petitioners

Versus

State of Maharashtra and others

).. Respondents

Mr.Shiraz Rustomjee, Senior Advocate, with Ms.Manjari Shah and Mr.Rohan Rajyadhyaksha i/b Thakore Jariwala Associates for the Petitioners.

Mr.Shailesh Shah, Senior Advocate, with Mr.G.D. Uttangale and Mr.J.G. Reddy for SRA.

CORAM : MOHIT S. SHAH, C.J. &  
M.S. SANKLECHA, J.

DATE : 29 AUGUST 2013

P.C.

Having regard to the issues involved in this writ petition, which is pending for the last more than ten years, and also having regard to the competing claims over the open spaces in the city of Mumbai, namely acute shortage of open spaces on the one hand and 50% of the population residing in slums on the other hand, it appears that an amicable solution is required to be evolved by the parties entering into a dialogue. For this purpose, it would be desirable if a meeting of the parties and their Counsel is convened by

the learned Advocate General where other options as alternatives to the impugned policy could be considered and if required could be further discussed at further appropriate levels. It goes without saying that all this would take place without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the parties.

2. Petition shall now be listed for hearing on 3 October 2013 at 3.00 p.m.

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

**M.S. SANKLECHA, J.**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION  
WRIT PETITION NO. 1152 OF 2002

Citispace &amp; Ors.

.. Petitioners

V/s.

State of Maharashtra &amp; Ors.

.. Respondents

Mr. Aspi Chinoy, Senior Advocate with Mr. Z.A. Jariwala i/b Thakore Jariwala & Associates for the petitioners.

Ms. T.H. Puranik with Ms. Yamuna Parikh for the respondent – BMC.

Mr. G.D. Utangale with Mr. B.V. Phadnis i/b Utangale & Co. for respondent no.2.

Mrs. Madhubala Kajale, A.G.P for the respondent State.

**CORAM: MOHIT S. SHAH, C.J. &  
M.S. SONAK, J.**

**DATE : 19 AUGUST 2014**

**P.C.:**

The praecipe dated 11 August 2014 has been filed by the Assistant Government Pleader to request deletion of name of the learned Advocate General appearing for the State in the order dated 25 July 2014 on the ground that Mr. Khambata had previously appeared for one of the parties and, therefore, he would not like to appear on behalf of the State.

2. It is made clear that this Court is not hearing the present writ petition as an adversarial matter, but as a public interest litigation to find out solution to the problem of balancing the schemes of

rehabilitating slum dwellers and rights of the citizens to have green open spaces. We, therefore, do not accede to the request made by the learned Advocate General, who is requested to appear and assist the Court in this matter.

3. We now take up the praecipe dated 19 August 2014 filed by the advocate for the petitioners.

4. Mr. Aspi Chinoy, learned Senior Advocate for the petitioners, submits that in para 4 of the order dated 25 July 2014 needs correction. He submits that at the hearing a statement was made by Mr. Srivastav, the Secretary, Urban Development Department, that the stand of the State Government was that the policy of the State Government is to see that slum dwellers are rehabilitated in the vicinity of the land on which hutments are presently situated. The learned counsel, therefore, submits that para 4 of the order may be corrected to reflect the above stand.

5. In view of the above, para 4 of the order shall be substituted by the following:

“4. At the hearing today, Mr. Srivastav, the Secretary, Urban Development Department has submitted that the State Government would devise schemes / incentives in order to free up the

encroached RG / PG open spaces, but that practical compulsions may make it difficult to completely exclude some extent of in situ rehabilitation."

The order be corrected accordingly.  
Both the praecipe stand disposed of.

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

**(M.S. SONAK, J.)**



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

Shri Devendra Fadnavis  
Chief Minister, Maharashtra  
Mantralaya  
Mumbai 400021

December 1, 2014

Dear Shri Fadnavis,

11/12/14  
लिपिक  
मुख्यमंत्री सचिवालय  
मंत्रालय, मुंबई-400022

**Sub: Cabinet decision to extend use of reserved Playgrounds to 45 days in a year for non-sporting activities**

We are writing to you regarding the cabinet decision taken by your government permitting the use of reserved Playgrounds to 45 days in a year for non-sporting activities. It is deeply disappointing that this anti children and anti citizen move is one of the first pronouncements of your government.

The importance of preventing Reserved Public Open Spaces from being diminished and in fact the vital need to preserve and increase them is borne out by the startling statistics that follow. There is a yawning gap between the universally accepted norms governing the requirement of open space per person in an urban environment and the dismal ratio available in Mumbai. Namely:

- 1.24sq m per person in Mumbai - MCGM's ELU (Existing Land Use) 2012
- 10-12sq m per person UDPFI- (Urban Development Plans Formulation & Implementation -Guidelines of Ministry of Urban Affairs Government of India)
- 9sq m per person -WHO (World Health Organization) /FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) / UN
- 4.758 sq m per person – DDA (Delhi Development Authority)
- 3 sq m per person – CIDCO Navi Mumbai

You will agree that playground use for children not available for 5.5 months in a year (not usable for 4 months of the monsoon and not available for 45 days as per your new policy) is just not acceptable. In addition, every time an event takes place it ruins the ground and the extremely poor monitoring by the authorities leaves devastation behind! Surely political rallies cannot be any government's priority over and above the right of our children to have good quality playgrounds!

Page 1 of 2

Protection of Public Open Spaces has been an objective that NAGAR, through its erstwhile constituent CitiSpace, has long pursued. We are a not-for-profit organization seeking to improve the quality of life in Mumbai and work 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 and water conservation. NAGAR's 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 the city and networks with other civic NGOs on specific issues. *(Brochure enclosed)*

New out-of-the-box solutions have to be found for holding public events which do not hijack as well as desecrate our scarce open spaces. **We urge you not to take this matter up in the December session of the legislature in Nagpur and defer it till you have explored alternate solutions from experts and citizens of Mumbai.**

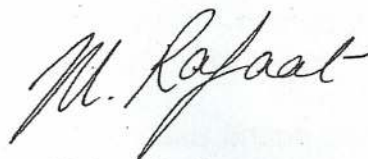
We at NAGAR are keen to meet you on this subject as our long engagement with the issue of public open spaces has given us valuable insights and inputs to offer.

Looking forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely,



**Navana Kathpalia**



**Meher Rafaat**

On behalf of Trustees

**Anand Akerkar**

**D M Sukthankar**

**Gerson Da Cunha**

**Dinesh Ahir**

**Meher Rafaat**

**Nayana Kathpalia**

**Kunti Oza**

**Neera Punj**

We, the citizens of Mumbai, have on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Shivaji Park, Mumbai resolved against the proposed amendment to Section 37 A of the MRTP Act 1966 as follows:

Whereas there is paucity of open spaces in Greater Mumbai and;

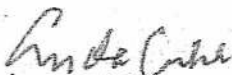
Whereas there is inconvenience caused to young sports men and players for regular practice, holding matches and competitions on the playground due to misuse of playground for non-sport activities; and

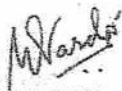
Whereas the cabinet of ministers Government of Maharashtra have proposed to amend section 37 A of the MRTP Act 1966 to permit holding of political meetings on the playgrounds and have proposed to extend the existing time limit of 30 days to 45 days in a calendar year; and

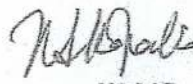
Whereas we the citizens of Mumbai representing NGOs and other social organisations are deeply concerned about the encroachment of non-sport activities on playgrounds. This meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Shivaji Park, Mumbai hereby resolved as follows:


*"Resolved that the Cabinet of Ministers (GoM) should immediately withdraw and revoke the proposal to amend Section 37 A of the MRTP Act, 1966.*

*Resolved further that the Government of Maharashtra should reduce the existing time limit of 30 days to 15 days for the use of playgrounds for non-sport activities as per the original Bombay High Court Judgement on this issue. "*

  
AGNI

  
WECOM Trust

  
NAGAR

  
SWACHH HARIT  
SHIVAJI PARK  
ABHIYAAN



Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

Shri Devendra Fadnavis  
Chief Minister, Maharashtra  
Mantralaya  
Mumbai 400021

December 15, 2014

Dear Shri Fadnavis,

*D*  
16/12/14  
श्री. देवेंद्र फडणवीस  
मुख्यमंत्री, महाराष्ट्र  
मंत्रालय, मुंबई-400021

**Citizens strongly protest the permitting of 4G installations on 'non buildable' reservations in Greater Mumbai.**

Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution passed at a public meeting held on December 8, 2014 protesting the use of 'non buildable' reservations for installation of 4G Cell Towers Notified by UDD, Government of Maharashtra under 37 (1AA) of the MRTP Act 1966 on March 4, 2014.

Several citizen organisations and individuals had come together to discuss the proposal currently being considered by the MCGM. For the reasons contained in the attached Resolution we urge you to ask the MCGM to put this proposal on hold till a well advertised public debate is held on the subject. Inviting suggestions/objections advertised in innocuous papers; as was done for this notification on 2013, is just not good enough for actions that will have serious consequences!

We at NAGAR are keen to meet you on this subject as our long engagement with the issue of public open spaces has given us valuable insights and inputs to offer.

Looking forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely,

*N. Kathpalia*  
Nayana Kathpalia

*M. Rafaat*  
Meher Rafaat

On behalf of Trustees

Anand Akerkar

D M Sukthankar

Gerson Da Cunha

Dinesh Ahir

Meher Rafaat

Nayana Kathpalia

Kunti Oza

Neera Punj

Encl: as above

**Resolution to protest against use of 'non buildable' reservations for installation of 4G Cell Towers Notified by UDD, Government of Maharashtra under 37 (1AA) of the MRTP Act 1966 on March 4, 2014**

This meeting of citizens held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 strongly disapproves of the 4G Cell Towers Notification issued by the Urban Development Department (UDD) Government of Maharashtra passed on March 2014.

Section 37 (1AA) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 allows modification of any part of or proposal made in a DP if it is a) an urgent requirement & b) it will not change the character of the DP. In the present case there is no urgent requirement for installation of towers and it clearly changes the character of spaces reserved for recreation and playgrounds.

By allowing erection of such towers on 'non-buildable' spaces, the door has been opened even wider to grave health risks from the Base Station antennae emanations. School children, college going adults, the elderly and infirm whose health most deserves protection will now be most at risk.

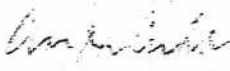
These installations will further cut down open spaces available to citizens. This is now a dismal 1.24 sq m per person in Greater Mumbai against 10 / 12 sq. m which is the building guideline accepted by the Center.

The notification specifies the need for warning signs around the installation ("Danger", "RF Radiation", "Restricted AREA", "Don't Enter", etc.) which will act as a deterrent to citizens and negate the very purpose of providing such recreational spaces. The adverse effect of the electromagnetic fields set up by these installations is thus fully recognized by UDD. Yet it is this very department that relaxes the regulation in 4G Cell Tower construction.

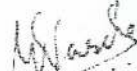
This meeting urges the Government of Maharashtra to withdraw permission for installing 4G Cell Towers on 'non-buildable' Reservations.



NAGAR



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Swachha Harit  
Shivaji Park Abhiyaan

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