

NEWSLETTER

2018-
2019



Awareness Calendar

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

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

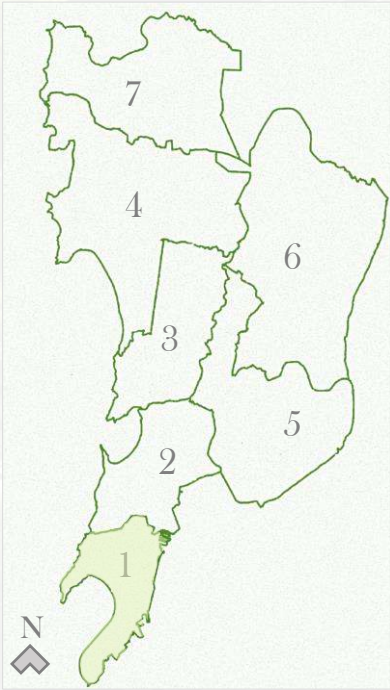
October 3 ~ World Nature Day

October 31 ~ World Cities Day

December 2 ~ National Pollution Control Day

December 14 ~ National Energy Conservation Day

Regulation of Street Vending



Graphical Image of Map of Greater Mumbai:
Depicting the 7 Municipal Zones

NAGAR has always been in the forefront of the Street Vendor issue, since 1998.

1998: NAGAR filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court (1722 of 1998)

Prayer: For the Court to direct the MCGM to implement the 1985 Supreme Court Order, which had laid down guidelines to demarcate Vending and Non-Vending Zones in Greater Mumbai.

2013: Final Order delivered by the Supreme Court in this matter. NAGAR continued to be in both the High Court and the Supreme Court throughout this period.

2014: The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Vending) Act was enacted by the Central Government, which mandated all States adopt it and all their local authorities follow the rules and regulations laid down.

The Government of Maharashtra adopted the Central Act and for Mumbai, the MCGM formed a Central TVC (CTVC) and Seven Zonal TVCs (ZTVCs) for the Seven Municipal Zones.

NAGAR was officially nominated as an NGO Member of TVC (Zone – I).

So far:

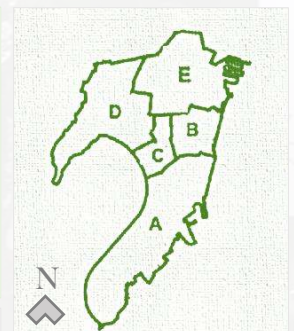
Two meetings of the TVC (Central) have been held;
Four meetings of the TVC (Zone – I) have been held.

NAGAR has actively participated in the TVC (Zone – I) meetings and contributed constructively in **the process for demarcating street vending zones as per the guidelines laid down by the MCGM.**

Due to its experience and the convenience of its office and staff, **NAGAR became the nodal point of coordination for the citizen representatives on the 7 ZTVCs.**

This has helped in deciding on a holistic strategy across all wards.

It was felt that such a combined approach would send a strong message to the CTVC regarding the problems arising from the Guidelines formulated by them for demarcating of Street Vending Zones.



Graphical Image of Map of Zone - I:
Depicting Wards A, B, C, D, E.

NAGAR received several letters from members of the Zonal TVC, which were compiled and forwarded to members of the TVC (Central) and to Mr. Balamwar, DMC (Spl), currently in charge of the Licence Department.

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

- Jane Jacobs

Regulation of Street Vending



RTI Application:

An RTI application filed by NAGAR revealed that:

The definitions used by the MCGM authorities for Hospitals, Educational Institutions and Places of Worship, for the proposed list for restricted hawking, were arbitrary and provisional.

All seven Zonal TVCs objected to the mindless manner of implementation of an Act, which would vitally affect the city and its citizens.



Campion School



Sir J J School
of Applied
Arts



Cama and Albless Hospitals



Maneckji Seth
Agiary

In the circulated list of Educational Institutes, Hospitals and Places of Worship, where Restricted Hawking would be enforced, according to the guidelines published by the MCGM, **only schools were listed as educational institutes and many schools were left out as well, many hospitals were also left out and many places of worship including Agyaris and Gurudwaras were left out.**

(Some examples indicated in the images above).



NAGAR wrote to the concerned authorities, pointing out these discrepancies. Other letters included general observations regarding safety and hygiene as well as pointing out the lack of specific definitions, governing the preparation of the list.

The procedure followed by TVC (Zone – I) in finalization of vending and non-vending zones included site visits to all proposed hawking zones in the five wards.

NAGAR was represented by Trustee Nayana Kathpalia in the meetings and site visits held.



RTI Application:

An RTI application filed by NAGAR revealed that:

While the MCGM had filed an affidavit October 11, 2018 stating that they would raise a special police force for the removal of illegal hawkers and demolition of unauthorized structures, **no such police force has been commissioned due to lack of funds.**

"Cities have always offered anonymity, variety, and conjunction, qualities best basked in by walking: one does not have to go into the bakery or the fortune-teller's, only to know that one might. A city always contains more than any inhabitant can know, and a great city always makes the unknown and the possible spurs to the imagination."

- Rebecca Solnit



Maharashtra Nature Park: NAGAR's efforts to #SaveMNP



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



On March 5, 2018

It was notified by the Slum Rehabilitation Authority, GoM, that the Maharashtra Nature Park would be included in Sector-5 of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

NAGAR strongly objected to it and put on record that MNP must be de-linked from all potential development ventures and remain as a stand-alone entity unconditionally.

Concerns Raised by NAGAR:

The proposed inclusion could potentially lead to compromise of the 41 acres of public open space, if incorporated into the planning process of redevelopment of Dharavi. It would also inevitably lead to compromise of internal public open spaces within the layout, given the presence of a large percentage of an existing public open space.

The permissible base FSI for Dharavi Redevelopment Project has been given as 4 on the gross plot. With the inclusion of 41 acres of area, the drastic increase of effective density would be harmful for the citizens and the pressure on services and infrastructure would be monumental. With a river flowing nearby, it could be an invitation to dreadful flooding.



NAGAR met several concerned citizens to formulate a strategy to pressurise the Government to withdraw the Notification.

NAGAR also filed RTI applications across all concerned authorities to seek relevant information about MNP – Ownership, Status, Proposals, etc.



One important response received from MMRDA included a GR dated March 16, 1991 stating that **the Maharashtra Nature Park is a protected forest.**

This along with other important information, and the citizens' collective efforts resulted in the Government excluding the MNP from the DRP.

It was a well-informed and coordinated effort by the citizens to save this green lung, which was being viewed as a real estate opportunity.

"Walkers are 'practitioners of the city', for the city is made to be walked. A city is a language, a repository of possibilities, and walking is the act of speaking that language, of selecting from those possibilities."

- Rebecca Solnit

Concerns of Compromise Faced Across Greater Mumbai



Azad Maidan

Azad Maidan



RTI Application filed by NAGAR:

For Information about whether any permission or approval was given for putting tar/concrete at Azad Maidan, as observed.

The Director of Sports and Youth, GoM informed NAGAR that the referred work was being undertaken by the Mumbai Police.

The Director of Sports and Youth, Government of Maharashtra has accordingly questioned the Mumbai Police regarding this, and has stated that the same is on record.

Purchase Notices for Private Plots reserved for Public Open Spaces



RTI Application filed by NAGAR: Seeking information from the MCGM regarding purchase notices received from private plots in Greater Mumbai with land reservations for Public Open Spaces in Development Plan 1991 and 2034.

As per the response received, the MCGM is in process of creating a reference database of private plots reserved for public amenities, and respective purchase notices, comprising a ward-wise tabulation with details, to be shared with the public through their website. The information is voluminous in nature.

As a vigilant organisation dedicated to protect public open spaces in Greater Mumbai, NAGAR took note of an encroachment on a designated public garden/park located at Powai.

In order to act effectively, NAGAR first sought all information from the Hydraulics Department, MCGM related to the renewal of lease on the Powai public open space (as quoted in a news report published in the Mumbai Mirror dated 29.01.2019).

The news report states that the said four-acre plot next to Powai Lake, reserved for a public garden, has been given to a private party for a rent of just Rs. 11 lakh a year and houses a private picnic cottage.

The information received from the Hydraulics Department, MCGM states “as per the RDDP 2034, the land bearing CTS No. 77 & 78 (the said plot) is affected by the designation of DOS 1.5 (Garden / Park).”

Hence, it is clear that the said public open space is a public garden/park and cannot be handed to private entities in any way. NAGAR will suitably follow up on this matter.

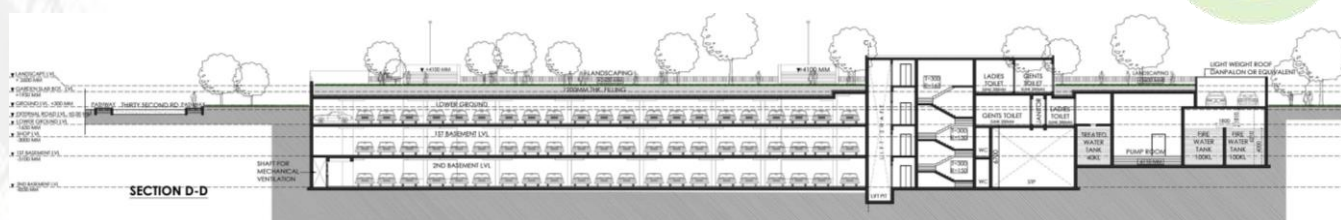
“Architecture is the very mirror of life. You only have to cast your eyes on buildings to feel the presence of the past, the spirit of a place; they are the reflection of society.”

- I M Pei

Public Open Spaces



Underground Facilities Below Public Open Spaces



Source: MCGM

Architectural Section, as proposed by the MCGM, for Building an Underground Pay and Park, along with Commercial Shops, under Patwardhan Park, a Prominent Existing Public Open Space in Bandra

MCGM has proposed building Underground Facilities, such as Pay and Park Lots and Shops, under existing public open spaces. The permissibility has been given in the Development Control and Promotion Regulations – 2034 for Greater Mumbai as well.

Such proposals have been taken up, so far, at:
Patwardhan Park in Bandra, and Jhulla Maidan in Byculla.

NAGAR wrote to the Municipal Commissioner, strongly objecting to these proposed underground pay and parking lot, citing that **this is a permanent compromise of permeability of these public open spaces.**

Further, it would temporarily compromise **the accessibility of these existing and frequented public open spaces.**

NAGAR stated that, while **existing Public Parking Lots in buildings for which developers have already been awarded the benefit of additional FSI** had been **deleted from the DP – 2034**, parking proposals are being considered under existing Public Open Spaces. This was a clear case of private interest superseding public interest.



NAGAR is exploring the possibility of a project for evaluation of ecosystem services provided by public open spaces within the city.

The idea is to evaluate public open spaces in economic terms, and thereby stress their importance to the Authorities for protecting and preserving them.

For this, NAGAR approached Wildlife & We Foundation, which is currently working on a similar project based in Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

Such a report would emphasize the importance of protecting and restoring public open spaces for the intrinsic value and benefits they provide to the ecosystem – maintaining the ambient air quality, permeability of ground, encouraging healthy lifestyles and so on.

“The more successfully a city mingles everyday diversity of uses and users in its everyday streets, the more successfully, casually (and economically) its people thereby enliven and support well-located parks that can thus give back grace and delight to their neighbourhoods instead of vacuity.”

- Jane Jacobs

Development Plan for Greater Mumbai – 2034



May 8, 2018: DCPR – 2034, Schedule-A and Schedule-B



**July 5, 2018: Island City DP Sheets;
July 15, 2018: Western Suburbs DP Sheets;
July 24, 2018: Eastern Suburbs DP Sheets**

The Development Plan – 2034 documents were notified, and included certain substantial modifications made by the Government of Maharashtra, which were referred to as ‘Excluded Parts’ and suggestions/objections to these were invited.

NAGAR wrote to the Deputy Director, Town Planning and attended hearings at his office, when invited, in order to address issues pertaining to:



Compromise of Public Open Spaces through the Regulations;

Discrepancies in Reservations for Public Open Spaces and Natural Areas and Green Zone;

Issues in Regulations Governing Heritage in the City;

Regulations leading to Environmental Degradation in the City.



RTI Application filed: Seeking Information regarding Errors in DP – 2034 Sheets

Due to an unsatisfactory response, a First Appeal was filed, and at the hearing, the Appellate Authority and Deputy Chief Planner (Area Plan), MCGM informed NAGAR that the required documents containing ‘erroneous colour’ are part of the ‘Ward-wise Recommendations of Planning Committee’, which are available on the official website.

NAGAR has continued to analyse the potential negative consequences of the DP- 2034.

Development Plan for the Eastern Waterfront



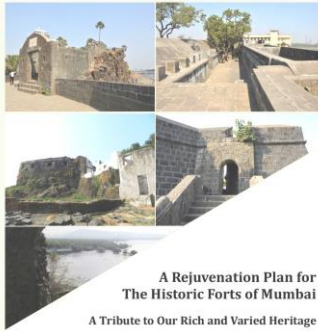
December 27, 2018: Draft Proposals for Development along Eastern Waterfront

The Draft Proposals for development along Eastern Waterfront, Greater Mumbai, were notified by the Mumbai Port Trust, which is the Special Planning Authority for the region, and suggestions and objections were sought from the public.

NAGAR submitted its suggestions and objections, and attended a hearing to express its views, which addressed concerning aspects in the proposal such as:

- Creation of Park through Reclamation of 90 Ha of the Sea and the Ecological Impact,
- The Importance of Public Open Spaces Being Distributed throughout the Notified Area;
- Discrepancy in Reservations in the Area Surrounding Sewri Fort.

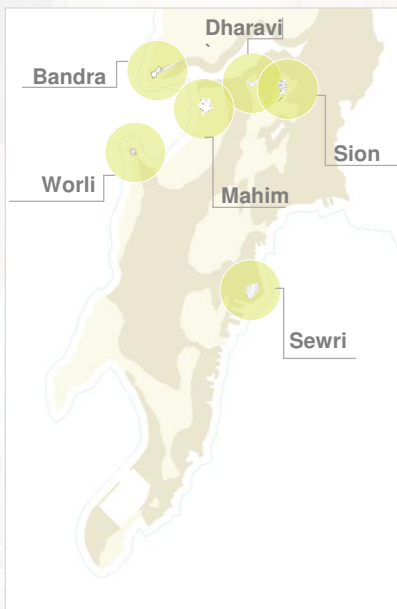
Rejuvenation of the Historic Forts of Mumbai



After completion of the report entitled **‘A Rejuvenation Plan for the Historic Forts of Mumbai’**, NAGAR has presented the same to Dr. Tejas Garge, Director, State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, and to Mr. Bipin Chandra Negi, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India.

The objective of the report is to advocate the need for conservation of these protected monuments and rejuvenation of their sites for citizens and tourists.

NAGAR is in discussion with the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, for taking forward the suggested steps for work on forts at Worli and Sewri, and is preparing a proposal for the same.



Part Map of Greater Mumbai:
Depicting Six Forts in the City

NAGAR's report addressed six forts in Greater Mumbai, and envisioned a proposal for four of these.

NAGAR believes that the historic forts of Mumbai should be conserved by the authorities, and their surroundings should be cleared off, and maintained as a landscaped garden, without tampering with the heritage value of the monuments. This could also be done via the PPP Model.

Through various measures, including suitable design interventions and engaging signage, citizens would be more aware of the history of the forts.

The city of Mumbai would benefit from gaining recreational spaces, with such cultural heritage, and the concerned authorities and stakeholders should contribute their efforts towards this.

NAGAR believes that any encroachments in and around such heritage structures must be cleared off, and a buffer zone be ensured and maintained around them.

World Heritage Site:

The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai

July 30, 2018:

The 'Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai', consisting of 92 buildings, was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

NAGAR has supported the next phase of this project by providing office space for the conservation architect appointed by the stakeholders.

She will look into the compliance issues required by UNESCO and work on the coordination with all Authorities, namely Government of Maharashtra, MCGM, MHCC and the A Ward, where the site is situated.

"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 Berry

Built and Natural Heritage



World Heritage Site: The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai

The following aspects are being worked upon for this project:

A Short Film, showcasing the Inscribed Site and the important buildings within it, to create more awareness about its heritage.

This has required coordination between owners, occupants and stakeholders of the various buildings within the site.

A Proposal for a Signage Plan is being designed for the entire site, along the lines of the Visitor Management Plan recommended by the UNESCO and the ICOMOS.

A compiled list has been prepared, sourced from various existing lists, of the individually listed buildings within the World Heritage Site. This includes information availed through an RTI Application filed to the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee.



RTI Application filed:

Current Status of Work at the Esplanade, specially with regard to the renovation work undertaken at Sabalan (Army Restaurant), situated in the building.

As per the response, it was determined that no approval had been sought for the renovation.

June 6, 2018: NAGAR wrote to the MHCC, expressing concern for the Art Deco Features on and within the Eros Cinema Building.

In response, NAGAR was invited on October 11, 2018 to present its views and concerns.

By this time, the building became part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hence, NAGAR reiterated the value of ensuring protection of the Art Deco features.

NAGAR sent MHCC a letter on October 15, 2018, enclosing noteworthy examples of the features of the Eros Cinema.



Image showing Eros Cinema

Subsequently, NAGAR was informed by MHCC that a proposal had been received by them.

NAGAR collected the relevant documents via an RTI Application and is actively pursuing the issue through the FORT initiative.

"Life is architecture and architecture is the mirror of life".

- I M Pei

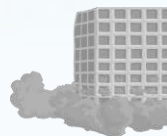
Quality of Air



A Focus Group Meeting (FGM) was held at the NAGAR office to discuss the issue of air pollution.

NAGAR plans to conduct a roundtable conference of concerned citizens to discuss strategies to start a dialogue with the authorities for abatement of air pollution and improving the ambient air quality.

It was discussed that the issue of Construction & Demolition waste towards dust mitigation is a great concern especially as DP 2034 envisages a spurt in redevelopment and construction projects.



RTI Application:

NAGAR has also approached the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and sought information under RTI regarding the Greater Mumbai-specific air quality management plan & action plan, if any, chalked out by them under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for tackling air pollution in Greater Mumbai.

NAGAR approached NEERI to understand its role in abating air pollution and its scope of work.

NEERI works only on projects assigned to them and currently are working on those commissioned by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

NEERI is a laboratory that conducts sample tests in areas which are to be assessed for pollution control and submits it to the concerned agency.

On its own, it conducts seminars and awareness programs to educate people about ambient air quality and how to reduce air pollution.

Slum Rehabilitation Authority

NAGAR continues to address issues regarding proposed construction on reserved public open spaces within the ambit of its WP 1152 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 SRA for approval or disapproval of the proposed projects.

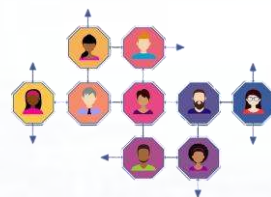
NAGAR has prepared a digital database, documenting information received from SRA, concerned citizens and developers, regarding public open spaces affected through Slum Rehabilitation Schemes.

In the sanctioned Development Control and Promotion Regulations-2034, the regulation governing development of Slum Rehabilitation Schemes is not in consonance with the Orders delivered by the Hon'ble High Court in the WP 1152 of 2002 on July 31, 2002 and July 25, 2014.

NAGAR has submitted its written objection to this to the Deputy Director, Town Planning, when suggestions and objections were invited for the DCPR-2034.

Networking

NAGAR met with Mr. Chetan Sharma, who is working on a citizen-centric mobile application that connects citizens with each other and with the authorities to voice their concern for various civic issues like SWM, public open spaces, public parking, and so on.



The App uses Cooperative Housing Society as the basic unit of the network to spread awareness on civic issues.

September 19, 2018: Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended a lecture on “Ocean Pollution – Science and Solutions” delivered by Dr. Jenna Jambeck, organised by ORF, where a mobile application called ‘Marine Debris Tracker’, which helps in keeping the oceans clean, was introduced. She stated different nations handle concerns regarding Solid Waste Management differently, based on varying cultures and contexts, and spoke about small steps that governments can take to initiate transformation. She also elaborated on the United Nations Clean Seas Campaign.

November 27, 2018: Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director and Ms. Devashree Vyas, Programme Coordinator, NAGAR attended a workshop entitled ‘Creating Attractive Public Spaces’ organised by Netherlands Consulate General Mumbai at Kitab Mahal. The workshop comprised segments oriented around the importance of public spaces and designing for better public spaces, with experts from India and Netherlands.

December 19-20, 2018: Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended an event “Badalta Maharashtra” conducted by the Marathi daily *Loksatta*. It addressed issues like pollution, plastic waste, solid waste management and governance. NAGAR is deeply involved with these issues and connected with Mr. Sanjay Bhuskute, MPCB spokesperson and Mr. Atul Deolgaonkar, Environment Expert.

February 28, 2019: Ms. Meher Rafaat and Ms. Nayana Kathpalia, NAGAR Trustees and Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director, NAGAR attended an event held on “Pseudo Stifling: Mumbai & Mumbaikars: Championing Smart & Liveable Infra Solutions” conducted by Mumbai First. It addressed the issues of air pollution, policy gaps in management of Construction and Demolition waste and infra solutions to reduce & reuse C&D waste. NAGAR interacted with Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Satinder Kaur of NEERI and Ms. Prachi Nimkar of Ecosupport Pvt. Ltd.

March 5, 2019: Ms. Anjali Pandit, Associate Director and Ms. Devashree Vyas, Programme Coordinator, NAGAR attended the Sandhya Savant Memorial Lecture by Prof. Narayani Gupta on ‘When Architecture meets Archaeology’ at Sir J. J. College of Architecture and organized in collaboration with UDRI. She spoke about the importance of architectural conservation and the transformation of conservation advocacy over the years. She also contrasted the dilution of existing laws, with the increased public interest and participation for heritage. She cited numerous examples within the country, particularly ones based in New Delhi.

“There is no logic that can be superimposed on the city; people make it, and it is to them, not buildings, that we must fit our plans.”

- Jane Jacobs

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.;
Pirojsha Godrej Foundation;
Ms. Manek Cyrus Guzder;
Shri V V & Smt. K V Mariwala Charity Trust;
Hemendra Kothari Foundation;
Seth Purshotamdas Thakurdas & Divaliba Charitable Trust;
Art Deco Mumbai Trust;
Nariman Point Churchgate Citizens Association (NPCCA);
Oval Cooperage Residents Association (OCRA);
Dr. Anahita Pandole;
Kala Ghoda Association.

Lawyers for pro bono work.
Bankers & Auditors.
NAGAR Associates for their constant support.

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

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

- Oscar Wilde

Management of NAGAR

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

The Trustees are

- ❖ 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.

Notes

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