

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI



Editorial

Mumbai & Bengaluru both don't have elected Corporators for over two years



It is unfortunate that both major cities in the country, Mumbai and Bengaluru, do not have elected Mayor and Corporators for over two years. Unlike



Assembly or Parliament which are more lawmakers who bring in policies and laws, it is the Corporators that are more directly involved with citizen's daily quality of life. Thus depriving the citizens of their right to better quality of life through their elected Corporators is a major violation of fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution for their development.

Both the governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka do not want to let go their hold on the two Corporations which have big budgets even bigger than those of some States and involvement in having a say in their respective city's development. Further, the number of Corporators in both the cities is much more than those of Legislators and Parliamentarians. The area for each constituency of a ward is small and much easier to handle for development.

In fact, they forget that with the huge number of Corporators, they will be able to build a big line-up of leaders for their party without which the party will not be able to grow. Unfortunately, the politicians would not like to let go their hold on the budgets of the wards in their legislative and parliament constituencies.

Finally, due to no elected Corporator or a Mayor, there is no accountability by the officers including the Municipal Commissioner who are accountable only to the party in power in the State.

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GLOBAL COASTAL CITIES SUMMIT 2023

Zahida Banatwala, AGNI Trustee

GLOBAL COASTAL CITIES SUMMIT 2023 was hosted by MUMBAI FIRST on the 30th of May 2023. It was a privilege to be invited to participate in the same, the topic was both challenging and scary. Immense collection of data and research has and is being done to find solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Speakers from across the globe shared their experiences and thoughts on climate change and how it's going to

change our lives now on. All seem to have set the deadline for 2030 onwards, suddenly time seems to be flying very

fast.

Most of the eminent speakers shared information on what measures each respective country was

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Stories of Good Governance

Hospital Healthcare Delivery - Poor Patients

Shrikant Soman, MMJ Editorial Board Member

In the earlier issues under the series of 'Stories of Good Governance' we have seen the examples of good governance in diverse fields at village level, in government administration, at school level etc. We have seen good governance at Wablewadi ZP School at Shirur Taluka in Pune District, at Village Level by South Orissa Voluntary Action - SOVA in the poorest district of Koraput in Odisha, Vibrant Gram Panchayat at Orkun Mittur and Dibburahalli in Karnataka, Village Patoda a tehsil in Beed subdivision of Beed district, Maharashtra, Super-Efficient Functioning Bureaucracy – IAS Office FDA Commissioner Mr Mahesh Zagade.

In this article, we will have a look at the Good Governance in the field of Hospital Healthcare Delivery. This example is from my own experience of managing a reputed Hospital. There are many areas of healthcare delivery which need good governance. Let us see the area of free treatment to poor patients as per the government order. As per the (then) order, every charitable



hospital must give complete free treatment to poor patients (annual income up to Rs. 50,000/-) and 50% concessional treatment to economically weaker (annual income up to Rs. 1,00,000/-). As per my observations and as often reported by the Charity Commissioner and the Media from time to time, this order is often flouted and misused by many hospitals (including reputed hospitals). Often the drivers and servants and friends of the Trustees and staff were given this facility even though they were having much higher income.

At our hospital, we used to thoroughly check their ancillary documents like electricity bill, telephone bill, house ownership and area, place of working etc. to make sure they are eligible. One Minister had appointed an agent to wholesale give this facility to the people from his constituency

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Riya of Wadala Sports Club wins medals in UAE Open Badminton tournament



Riya Arolkar, the coach of Wadala Sports Club,



represented India and bagged

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World Environment Day celebrated
Cuffe Parade Kunti Oza, Clean Mumbai Foundation

A grand celebration of world Environment Day by CPRA and Clean Mumbai Foundation with hon'ble



speaker Shri Rahul Narwekar and Consul Generals of UAE, BAHRAIN and Deputy consul of Germany.



The programme was graced by H.E. Consul General of Bahrain Mr. Ali Balooshi, H.E. Consul General of UAE Mr. Abdulla Almarzooqi & deputy Consul of Germany, Ms. Marja Einig, They all enjoyed the TREE PLANTATION event. They also appreciated the various activities of save environment by cuffe paradians with collection of tetrapack, e-waste etc.

Clean Mumbai Foundation

along with Har Ghar Hara Ghar, Garbage free India and MCGM have received tremendous support from Cuffe Paradians to execute the less usage of plastic, Tetrapak, Milk Bag and Pet Bottle and their collection for which



Rotary Club of Bombay has donated a Pet Bottle Crushing machine. The most magnificent plantation of Miyawaki forest at

CPRA Greens Garden is also sponsored by Rotary Club of Bombay.

Mr. Ramesh Narayan representing the Rotary Club of Bombay was felicitated by

CPRA and Clean Mumbai



Foundation for their valuable support. Rotarians, Dr. Mukesh Batra, Mr. Madhusudan Daga also graced the event.

Celebrity Nisha Jamwal appreciated the efforts by Cuffe Paradians and offered her support. Asad Laljee from Avid Learning also appreciated several green activities by Cuffe Paradians.



MCGM exhibited their dry waste collection activities at the event.

Our former Corporators Smt. Harshita Narwekar and Shri Makarand Narwekar were kind enough to support this noble initiative.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Rahul Narwekar appreciated Cuffe Paradians' efforts of Tetrapak, E waste, Milk bag and pet bottle collection. and also appreciated Rotary Club of Bombay support.

A very motivational message by Environmentalist Mr. Bittu Sahgal of Sanctuary Magazine conveyed that, "People should not throw garbage and expect BMC to clean it up. If each of us does just a little bit, a lot will get achieved."

The Cuffe Padian and promising young student, Ram Prasad Muhurkar, also gave a very encouraging message on the importance of saving Mother Earth.

As a token of appreciation, the following Cuffe Paradians who have participated in all these collection activities by motivating their building



residents:-

1. Aban Davar – Casablanca
2. Geeta Mahajan – Iris
3. Maya Chandani – Persepolis
4. Roma Nemani – Sunita
5. Mala Punvani – Dalamal
6. Jayshri & Anjali – Satnam
7. Seetha Ramanathan - Jolly Maker 3
8. Kamala Rao – Jupiter
9. Medha Patnaik - Jupiter and
10. Rekha Krishnan - Iris

Clean Mumbai foundation



urged more Cuffe Paradians to come forward and participate in reducing the carbon footprint on our Mother Earth. Together we shall make a huge difference. Climate change is warning us "Wake up or it will be too late!

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Wadala

Tree Planting on World Environment Day at Wadala Bridge. Supported by UTKARSH SMALL



FINANCE BANK, Wadala Branch

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Monsoon preparedness

Tide Table

Date, Time and Height of Waters of more than 4.5 meters for June to September 2023

NOTE

Flooding likely to occur on the days of high waters in case of heavy rains

- BMC Disaster Management Control Room

Sr no.	Day	Date	Time	Height
JUNE 2023				
1	Sunday	04.06.2023	1216 hrs	4.62 mtr
2	Monday	05.06.2023	1301 hrs	4.69 mtr
3	Tuesday	06.06.2023	1347 hrs	4.69 mtr
4	Wednesday	07.06.2023	1435 hrs	4.62 mtr
5	Thursday	08.06.2023	1525 hrs	4.51 mtr
JULY 2023				
1	Monday	03.07.2023	1202 hrs	4.60 mtr
2	Tuesday	04.07.2023	1249 hrs	4.72 mtr
3	Wednesday	05.07.2023	1336 hrs	4.78 mtr
4	Thursday	06.07.2023	1423 hrs	4.77 mtr
5	Friday	07.07.2023	1510 hrs	4.69 mtr
6	Saturday	08.07.2023	1555 hrs	4.52 mtr
AUGUST 2023				
1	Tuesday	01.08.2023	1146 hrs	4.58 mtr
2	Wednesday	02.08.2023	1230 hrs	4.76 mtr
3	Thursday	03.08.2023	1314 hrs	4.87 mtr
4	Friday	04.08.2023	1356 hrs	4.87 mtr
5	Saturday	05.08.2023	1438 hrs	4.76 mtr
6	Sunday	06.08.2023	1520 hrs	4.51 mtr
7	Wednesday	30.08.2023	1126 hrs	4.59 mtr
8	Thursday	31.08.2023	1206 hrs	4.80 mtr
SEPTEMBER 2023				
1	Friday	01.09.2023	0022 hrs	4.54 mtr
2	Saturday	02.09.2023	1244 hrs	4.88 mtr
			0107 hrs	4.68 mtr
			1322 hrs	4.84 mtr
3	Sunday	03.09.2023	0152 hrs	4.67 mtr
4	Thursday	28.09.2023	1401 hrs	4.66 mtr
			1100 hrs	4.56 mtr
5	Friday	29.09.2023	1137 hrs	4.71 mtr
6	Saturday	30.09.2023	0008 hrs	4.74 mtr
			1212 hrs	4.73 mtr

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All India Mayor and RWA summit on waste disposal

On 7th June 2023, Confederation of RWA (CoRWA) and Green Society of India organized All India Mayor and RWA Summit on waste disposal at Delhi. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri V. Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni.

16 Mayors and Municipal Commissioners from across the country participated in this summit.

The entire House resolved that instead of dumping grounds, sanitary landfills should be made, as dumping grounds eventually become dumping hills full of fire, disease, pollution and encroachment.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Muraleedharan, Acharya Lokeshji, Mr. Rajan Chhibber, Mr. Swadesh Kumar, Col. Tejendra Pal Tyagi, Mayor of Aizawl, Mizoram, Mr. Sailo, Mayor of Vijayawada, Mrs. Rayana Lakshmi, Mayor of Gangtok, Mr. Nail Bahadur Chhetri, Santhanam of Tamil Nadu, Ajith Kumar of Kerala,



Subba Rao of Andhra, Pawan Koshik of UP released the Souvenir.

Shri L. Kulai, Joint Municipal Commissioner, Aizawl, Shri Vishnu Thapa, Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Mrs. Satyavati, Additional City Commissioner, Vijayawada, Shri Gaurav Goyal, Mayor, Roorkee, Shri Anil Seni, Senior Deputy Mayor, Hisar, Shri



Joginder Pal Singh, Mayor, Haldwani, explained their methods of waste collection, and agreed to the proposal to make sanitary landfills in their



cities.

Colonel Tejendra Pal Tyagi, Chief Convenor, CoRWA said that every RWA is a primary school of democracy and therefore every work which can be done by a junior unit should not be done by a

senior unit. 80 percent of the municipal grant is basic and 20 percent is performance grant, which should be

allocated for programs run by RWAs. Mr. Uday Kumar Peyyeti, BT Srinivasan from Hyderabad, Mr. M V Subba Rao from Vijayawada, Ms. Madhuri Subbarao from Bangalore and Ms. Ruby Makhija from Delhi strongly demanded that participation of RWAs be ensured in all municipal decisions. CoRWA-UP

President Mr. Pawan Kaushik proposed to make a detailed report to set up e-waste collection center.

Mr. Saurabh Gandhi from Delhi, Mr. Chetan Sharma, Mrs. Ruby Makhija, Dr. Santhanam from Tamil Nadu, Ajit Kumar from Kerala, V V Rao from Hyderabad, Madhuri Subba Rao from Karnataka, Venkat Subba Rao Madhukari from Andhra Pradesh, Ghaziabad Ram Prastha Green K Gandhi Bhaskar, Gurmail Singh Sidhu of Sahibabad were honoured with the Green India Award.

Mr. Badrinath former Deputy Commissioner, Mr.



Raghavendra Rao and Mr. BT Srinivasan from Hyderabad, Mr.

Riya of Wadala Sports Club wins medals in UAE

Contd. from Page 1 medals in the 44th UAE Open Badminton Tournament 2023.

Riya along with her partners won SILVER Medal in Women's Double defeating Aisyahi Nuraini and Elizabeth Jovita (Indonesia) and Bronze



Medal in Mixed Doubles defeating Wildan Sholih and Aisyahi Nuraini (Indonesia).

The tournament was held in Dubai from 5th May to 4th June this year.

Riya is also from Hemant Shuttlers Academy.

CONGRATS Riya!

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Nageswara Rao from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Venkateswarlu, T N Kaul from Gurugram, Pradeep Verma, Archana Pramod from Ram Prastha Green Society, Raj Kumar Bhati, Dr. R. K Arya, Ram Avtar Pachauri, Kailash Chand Sharma gave very valuable suggestions. Four Resolutions were passed by the entire house by show of hands. More than 300 RWA top functionaries participated enthusiastically.

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An appeal for donations

AGNI is a movement managed and run by volunteers. Being a voluntary movement, AGNI needs the support and contribution of every citizen to continue its work. Citizens are invited to contribute their indispensable ideas, time, effort and financial support. Send Cheque / DD in favour of "AGNI" to any of our Ward Coordinators as listed on Page 4 or to AGNI Office:

Chadha Bldg, 1st Floor, Plot No. 95, Wadala (West), Mumbai. Bank Details for donations transferred electronically:

Account Name: AGNI,
SBA/c No.: 00071021000005
Bank of India, Breach Candy Branch, Mumbai 400 026.
NEFT/IFSC: BKID0000007

AGNI is a Charitable Trust. Donations are eligible for exemption under 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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Hospital Healthcare Delivery - Poor Patients

contd. from Page 1 in up-country. That agent used to be in the hospital all the time, arranging the well-being of his subjects and their documentation. Based on our factual scrutiny, we found out that the rules are blatantly flouted. So we refused to accept the patients under this category. The Minister personally called me and to my horror, he used a very loud and abusive threatening language, in sharp contrast to his public image. We did not budge. He complained to the Charity Commissioner and through them put pressure on us. Charity Commissioner officially sent us a stricture and warned us of serious consequences for flouting the rules.

We took up the challenge and did not budge from our position. We officially put the facts before the Charity Commissioner and asked him to give us specific instructions to admit those patients overriding our objections. We also warned the patients of facing very serious legal consequences for falsification of records in order to wrongly

avail the benefits under this Scheme. Realizing our stubbornness on the strength of right moral and legal grounds they all eventually backed out. We did this in pursuant of our pledge of ensuring that the really poor people of the Society get benefit from this scheme. We even gave extra-statutory benefits to these patients by providing facilities and food to the relatives of these really poor patients. Our best doctors also used to treat these patients, instead of the junior medical staff as was the practice in other hospitals. (Space constraints put restrictions on writing more elaborately on this topic.)

I will write more of such good governing practices in healthcare delivery against the dark reality in my subsequent articles.

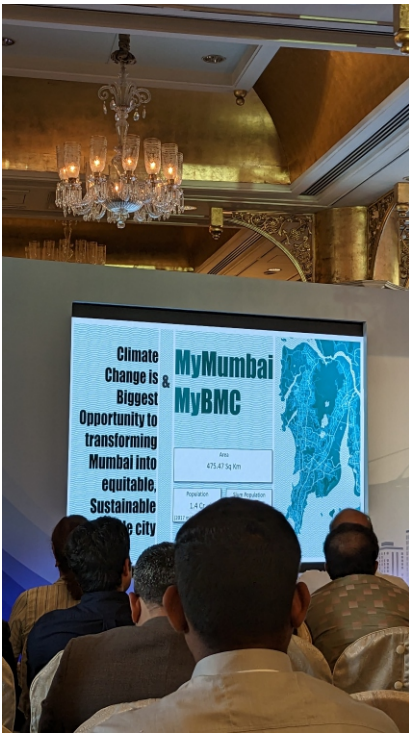
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Mumbai Meri Jaan is also available as an e-edition. Those interested may send an email to: mmj.agni@gmail.com giving their email ids. - Ed.

GLOBAL COASTAL CITIES SUMMIT 2023

contd. from Page 1 under-taking to handle the climate change issues. All agreed that "CLIMATE CHANGE WAS REAL" We all know that Mumbai is facing the problems too, this summer the ever-increasing heat is a proof of the same. We were informed, that here on the heat, rain pattern and rising sea levels would only get worse. Hence officials from BMC, MMRDA and others shared data on the solutions that have been planned to confront the issues of flooding etc. all agreed that for good results public participation was very important. We need to disaster proof our coastlines, create community awareness. Desilting and cleaning of storm water drains is a must.

We have a lot to learn from places like Singapore, Netherlands and Tokyo to name a few. Prepare for the risk and emergency of Climate change. Climate change will affect lives and livelihood which will be a challenge going



forward. We were informed about Mumbai being a unique city and the long-term effects of land reclamation. By retraining rivers, we would be



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To volunteer in AGNI or to form Advanced Locality Management (ALM) contact your respective Ward Coordinators below:-

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creating greater problems for ourselves. Mumbai being a rich city needs to have a greater MUMBAI CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. This can be achieved with policy tweaking was what the experts said. One important aspect we cannot overlook is 50% of Mumbai population resides in slums. Another very important aspect is how we treat our waste. 85,000 tonnes of waste generated on 27th May 2023. That's huge.

To conclude, we should all be very concerned with the climate change and the problems it brings. While governments are doing all that can be done, let us as citizens work together to see how we can help in our small way to bring about a bigger change.

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