

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI



Editorial

Bravo! BCS for consistently protesting against Aarey Car shed

Since the time the new Maharashtra Government brought back the Car shed at Aarey, the Bombay Catholic Sabha has been consistently protesting at Aarey every Sunday morning, without fail, expressing solidarity with the Tribal/Adivasies of Aarey who are fighting to safe guard their rights.



Unfortunately, the Government is adamant and has put the last nail in the Car shed coffin, by withdrawing the order of October 2020 of MVA government to MMRDA, giving the Kanjurmarg land for it.

Now the only way is to ensure as much greenery is retained at Aarey by the government thus heeding to the METROMAN Sreedharan's advice "Even with the car shed the place can be kept green".

MMJ

BMC Elections 2022

Number of BMC electoral wards brought back to 227

An officer related to the BMC election department said the efforts of around 300 employees, including officers, went in vain as the new government has reversed the old order.

The new Maharashtra Government led by the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reversed the MVA government's decision on the delimitation of wards in Mumbai and has brought down electoral wards to 227 from 236. The BMC has to bear the loss of around 50 lakh which it has used for the pre-election process till today. One officer related to the BMC election department said the efforts of around 300 employees, including officers, went in vain.

Last year, BMC had conducted ward delimitation processes after the State Election Commission's (SEC) order. According to BMC, the census process was not conducted in the year 2021 because of Covid-19. Hence, considering

the increase in the population of Mumbai, BMC had bifurcated the existing 227 wards and created 9 more wards and made 236 total electoral wards in Mumbai. At that time, Congress and BJP had objected to the process and alleged that Uddhav Thackeray had made the ward delimitation favourable for Shiv Sena candidates.

Thereafter, on May 31st, BMC had conducted a ward reservation process for SC, and ST communities. BMC then brought a voter list which the state election commission prepared till May 31st and made an updated voter list of 236 words and published the voter list after receiving suggestions and objections. BMC On July 29 again had drawn OBC ward reservation and

contd. on Page 4

After 20 Years No Flooding on Chapel Road

Mario Fishery, MMJ Editorial Board member & H/W JAAG

For the past 20 years at Marybai Colony, Chapel Road, Bandra West, the torrential Mumbai rains played havoc with the residents of this area. Every year their houses

were filled with water up to the ground floor with damage to property, loss of electricity and no access to proper sanitation. Living in this area became impossible

contd. on Page 4



Housing Society Woes!

Jennifer Shetty, AGNI's A Ward Coordinator

The grievances of cooperative housing societies are on the rise and are hitting the headlines in the media. The members of housing societies have rights and privileges which are incorporated in the Bye Laws and the MCS Act.

Members must participate in society matters as this will ensure smooth administration at least at the CHS level. I would like to recount my personal experience and perseverance in a nutshell. My future course of action will be to file an FIR against corrupt officials.

In the last few years in my society I observed that money

was being collected under different categories and that funds were often collected for the same job several times. The same consultant and contractor enjoyed the privilege of getting work orders frequently. It made me suspicious so I asked the society for documents. The society has still not given the documents despite three orders from the Dy. Registrar's office.

After the second order the Registrar called for an unwarranted hearing. I could not go. The next day I went with a letter asking for an alternate date. To my horror, I was told my file was

Contd. on Page 4

Metro 3 aqua coaches began trial run on 30th August

A lifeline for the city
Phase 1 of the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro 3 corridor is expected to start in 2024. Once ready, the metro line will provide connectivity to Mumbai's key financial hubs as well as the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport

Chief minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis (below) flagged off the trial run of Metro-3 in Aarey Colony. The run was conducted on a three-km stretch between Sariput Nagar and Marol Naka. SATISH BATE/HT PHOTO

Graphic courtesy Hindustan Times

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS, Deputy chief minister

The Metro car depot issue was more political than environmental in nature... We have given a signal that no one can stop this metro from running.

Phase 1
Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) to SEEPZ

Phase 2
Cuffe Parade to BKC

Stage of completion (in %)

Track laying complete: 94% Seepz, 94% MIDC, 87% Sahar Road, 85% Santacruz, 86% Dharavi, 81% Worli, 82% Mahalaxmi, 70% Grant Road, 56% Kalbadevi, 89% Churchgate, 87% CST, 85% Hutatma Chowk, 91% Cuffe Parade, 91% Marol Naka, 91% International Airport, 87% Domestic Airport, 84% Vidyanaigari, 83% BKC, 84% Shitladevi, 85% Dadar, 83% Siddhivinayak, 76% Acharya Atre Chowk, 83% Science Centre, 83% Mumbai Central, 46% Girgaon, 87% Hutatma Chowk, 85% Vidhan Bhavan, 90% Cuffe Parade, 91% Track laying mostly complete

Aarey Depot 29%
Work on carshed to be completed

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis flagged off the trial run of Metro 3 at Aarey colony.

The Metro 3 coaches are slightly broader than the existing metro coaches, and the aqua colour scheme of the outside is reflected inside as

well. The aqua line of the metro portrays the marine culture and the importance of sea has for Mumbai said Ashwini Bhide, Managing Director of MMRC.

The 33.5 km long Colaba-Bandra-Spez Metro 3 project is the first underground corridor of the metro network. Of the 27 stations, 26 will be underground.

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NGO prepares scorecard of 31 MLAs from city

Two Sena MLAs, Ravindra Waikar and Prakash Surve, and BJP's Rahul Narvekar who recently became assembly speaker lagged far behind in the said parameters, underlined the NGO's report.

Congress leader Amin Patel, BJP's Parag Alavani and Sunil Prabhu from Shiv Sena clinched the first, second and third spots in terms of performing good while being legislators. They were ranked by NGO Praja foundation which analysed 31 MLAs from Mumbai on the parameters ranging from attendance in assembly, number of questions raised in assembly, academic background, criminal cases and usage of development funds.

According to Praja, Patel

secured first rank with a score of 81.43 per cent, Alavani stood second with 79.96 per cent and Prabhu came third with 77.19 percent. On the other hand, Ravindra Waikar ranked 31st with 28.52 per cent, Surve got 30th rank with 29.76 per cent and Narvekar was on 29th rank with 31 per cent.

Praja has ranked the MLAs from the period of 2019 assembly winter session to 2021 monsoon session. To dig deeper, the NGO compiled data from 19 states on how many

No more free street parking

The project Graphic courtesy Hindustan Times

- Residents who don't have parking space in their buildings or societies can no longer park their vehicles on streets for free
- The BMC will launch a pilot project in four wards, in South

Mumbai as well as the western suburbs for safe, paid, on-street parking of vehicles

- They will have to book slots in advance
- Pricing not final, awaits Municipal Commissioner's nod

ROADS EARMARKED

D Ward 34 roads including August Kranti Marg to LD Ruparel Marg in Nepeansea Road and Hanging Garden to Kemp's Corner in Peddar Road

K (west) ward 50 roads in Andheri (west) including second cross lane, Millat Nagar, Lokhandwala complex and Oshiwara Park Road

G (south) ward 35 roads in Worli including SS Amritvar Marg, Tulsi Pipe road and Ganpatrao Kadam Marg are earmarked for this

S Ward 34 roads in Powai-Bhandup such as Cliff Avenue Road and High Street Road

THE TEAM INCHARGE

- In January 2021, the BMC put together a committee of policy experts, urban planners, transport planners, environmental experts from Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Called the Mumbai Parking Authority, it is currently constituted under the city's roads and traffic department
- Its legal formation of MPA still awaits clearance from BMC
- It has been contracted by the civic body till January 2023 to implement the pilot
- It is headed by advisor Dr Ramnath Jha, retired IAS officer

BMC will implement paid on-street parking in four administrative wards which will allow citizens to park their vehicles in designated areas under CCTV surveillance, as a pilot project.

D Ward will have 34 roads, K/West ward will have 50 roads, G/South ward will have 35 roads and S Ward will have 34 roads (See Graphic).

The Mumbai Parking Authority, constituted under the city's roads and traffic department, will implement the project, referred to as the ward parking management plan. It will be applied to residential areas where residents do not have space inside their buildings or society premises to park, said Prachi Merchant who leads the TISS team.

MMJ

PRAJA
Making democracy work

assembly sessions were called in 2020.

Maharashtra stood tenth place, as per the report which reasoned that Covid curtailed assembly sessions in 2020. Consequently, less questions were asked. In the second year of 12th assembly (2009-2014), 11,049 questions were asked but in the second year of 14th assembly (2019-2021) just 574 questions were raised by MLAs.

The report pointed out that less number of questions were asked about core issues like housing, education, health from 2019 winter session to 2021 monsoon sessions as compared to previous sessions between 2014 and 2016. In the 13th assembly session (2014-

2019), 1,107 questions were asked on health, 1,064 on crime and 1,297 on education.

Similarly, 304 questions were raised on housing, 303 on crime, 238 on education and 378 on health in the sessions of current tenure.

Commenting on the report, Praja Foundation CEO Milind Mhaske said, "Covid impacted all sectors; the most affected were health and education, which needed major attention from the state legislative. Thus there was an urgent need for the Maharashtra government to meet so as to take inclusive decision."

Praja's head-dialogue program Yogesh Mishra said, "Taking a look at the overall performance of Mumbai MLAs from 2019 winter session to 2021 monsoon session, 13 out of 31 MLAs received an overall score of 50 per cent **Contd. on page 3**

NGO prepares scorecard of 31 MLAs from city

Contd. from Page 2 and below. On the other hand, 30 MLAs out of 31 received a rank of 80 per cent and above in the attendance parameter.”

However, only 11 MLAs have raised more than 150 questions during the said period. In the quality of questions asked parameter, none of the 31 MLAs achieved a score of 80 per cent and above. Thus, the higher attendance score didn't reflect in the number of quality of questions asked in the assembly, he added. **MMJ**

Remembering Anand

●Five years ago, my dearest friend Anand Castelino left us for his heavenly abode. He touched the lives of so many and was always available to lend a helping hand.

Anand Castelino's loss has created vacuum in the RTI activism fraternity and non-replaceable loss to Mahiti Adhikar Manch and personally to me.

For me he was someone who was there for me, no matter what. Thick or thin. I can label anyone as a friend. But a best friend? That's something that I had earned. He knew me sometimes more than I knew myself. We shared tears and laughs. I was to trust him with anything and everything. I have a bunch of friends, but only Anand that I could count on completely. He was god sent person for me in my life's 17 years' journey with him in spears of social activism. There is replacement for this vacuum.

Bhaskar Prabhu, Convenor, Mahiti Adhikar Manch

●32 priest celebrated his funeral Mass irreplaceable loss to AGNI.

Jennifer Shetty, A Ward Coordinator

●He was my confidant....always ready to help.

Theo D'Souza, D Ward Coordinator

feedback

Your editorial Green vs development balance thought provoking. - Kuppu

Bangalore Floods - a lesson for Mumbai?



The Bengaluru floods caused due to encroachments and concretisation on the banks of the lakes is an eye opener if it happens on Mithi river says Youth for aarey! **MMJ**



●Anand was involved with me in bringing out neighbourhood newsletters, starting with Voice of Wadala from 1995, Voice of T Ward, Voice of K/W Ward, Voice of T Ward, Voice of D Ward etc., including Mumbai Meri Jaan till his death. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Sharad Kumar, Editor, Mumbai Meri Jaan

●Bhasker's views are a reality of his working in all our organisations.

Willie Shirsat, R/North Coordinator

●Yes, may his soul rest in peace.

Pamela Cheema, Asst Editor, Mumbai Meri Jaan & S Ward Coordinator

●True, he was my mentor and guide in BCS.

Anthony Dias, P/S Ward Coordinator

●🙏🙏
Rajkumar Sharma, AGNI Trustee

Blue Grotto CHS Borivali Independence day celebration

Willie Shirsat, AGNI's R/North Ward Coordinator

Since 1973 when Society came in existence, we have been celebrating National Day events in our Society.

At 10am most of our members young and old, house makers and children, assembled enthusiastically before time.

Welcoming, the Secretary, Willie Shirsat said, that two years of tragedy of pandemic Covid'19, we remained disciplined, maintaining time and again following the guidelines and advisories issued by the authorities.

We had very minimum of cases of Covid'19 and were taken care of those got afflicted with covid.



Our Society was blessed with Doctors, a great medically beneficial facility for our Society. Doctors were FRONTLINE WARRIORS who managed to arrest Covid'19. We are proud of them; we are saved because of their sacrifices. This was the most opportune time to HONOR our doctors.

Dr Kishore Hattiangady a Society member, hoisted the flag. **MMJ**

NEWS IN PICTURES



Sharad Kumar, Editor, Mumbai Meri Jaan, the senior most, was asked to unfurl the flag at the Wadala West Citizens' Forum, though the Corporator was also present.



Pameela Cheema, Asst. Editor of Mumbai Meri Jaan & AGNI's S Ward Coordinator, unfurling the flag at her society.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Procedure for Rooftop solar panels

Procedure for the consumers to install Rooftop Solar-

- ⚡ Register at National Portal www.solarrooftop.gov.in and submit application. At the time of application, beneficiary will be informed about the complete process and subsidy amount that can be availed for installation of rooftop solar plant.
- ⚡ The application will be forwarded online to the concerned DISCOM for issuance of technical feasibility. The DISCOM will issue technical feasibility within next 15 days.
- ⚡ After issuance of technical feasibility, the beneficiary can install the rooftop solar plant through any of the registered vendors. List of registered vendors will be displayed on the portal.
- ⚡ After installation of rooftop solar plant, the beneficiary will submit plant details on the portal and apply for net-metering. The application for net-metering will be forwarded online to the concerned DISCOM.
- ⚡ Upon installation of the net-meter and successful inspection of the plant, commissioning certificate would be generated online by DISCOM.
- ⚡ Once the commissioning certificate has been received, the beneficiary will submit bank account details on the portal along with copy of cancelled cheque. Central government subsidy will be credited directly into the bank account of the beneficiary within 30 working days of receipt of the bank account details.

mnreindia mnreministry mnre.gov.in

Housing Society Woes!

Contd. from Page 1 closed and I was not even given a hearing. Immediately I met the Div. Jt. Registrar and complained, putting all the details in writing. He assured me of a hearing date. In the interim I filed a complaint in the Collector's office asking for redressal of my grievances. The collector's office conducts a Lokshahi Din on the first Monday of every month at 2 pm. The Sub Registrar attended the meeting. The Collector instructed him to give me the documents and used the word "Sarvajanik", I made it a point to tell him the documents requested for are Society documents and not the personal information of any Society member.

After meeting the Collector,

the Dy. Registrar's office sent a letter to the society which reached them 10 days later. In that letter the society was ordered to give me the documents, however many of the documents I had listed were missing. So I went again to the Dy. Registrar and showed him the letter with the list of 16 documents. He made a note of it and another order will be issued soon. In the meantime, I have continued to follow up with the Collector's office for strict action against the erring official who did not send the required documents until he is made accountable for his gross negligence in performing his duty.

Despite my travails, I would still emphasise that in the interests of a corruption-free housing society please do not hesitate to seek justice. **MMJ**

An appeal for donations

A GNI 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 400 031
Bank Details for donations transferred electronically:

Account Name: AGNI,
SB A/c No.: 000710210000005
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. **MMJ**

After 20 Years No Flooding on Chapel Road

contd. from Page 1 and residents were determined to resolve the problem.

Marybai colony is a low lying area and its only storm water drain was buried partially during the construction of the MET Institute of Management. The other issue faced by Bandra is the high tide where the mouth of the main drains gets blocked and does not allow the city's rain water to empty into the sea, causing flooding in Bandra.

Also, illegal encroachment along the drains at the Reclamation, Bandra West had

caused the drains to clog. The storm water drain from Veronica Road was also pushing water into the narrow drains of Marybai colony. Further, 80% of the SWD from Marybai colony into the Reclamation area were blocked with debris.

A team of active residents got together and worked closely



BMC Elections 2022

contd. from Page 1 Women reservation lottery.

This entire process has gone in vain. Now, BMC has to again conduct the entire exercise.

Sanjog Kabre, Deputy Municipal Commissioner said, "We will follow orders of SEC. Now, an ordinance has been issued, so we will start our work again. Now, we will again conduct ward reservation processes and prepare a voter list keeping in mind 227 wards. As per our data around 9 lakh voters have increased in Mumbai." **MMJ**

with the Corporator, MLA and BMC team to find a permanent solution to the problem. The former Corporator, Raja Rehbar Khan, proposed that the storm water drain from Veronica Road be closed which was a huge relief for Marybai colony residents.

The former Corporator, Asif Zakaria, closed Veronica Road and diverted all the water to Mt Carmel's main road in coordination with the BMC engineering department. MLA Adv Ashish Shelar offered support in coordinating with the H/W BMC team of Mr. Vinayak Vispute for the cleaning of drains with the SWD department.

Mr. Vinayak Vispute deputed Anil Sasane from his team and personally supervised the project of the SWD cleaning of Reclamation drains.

The key to success is when



residents work closely with the system and resolve to bring about a change in the city. The success of Chapel Road is a role model for Mumbai and showcases the possibilities that emerge when communities are involved in decision making in the areas that they live in. **MMJ**

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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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|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
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