

JANUARY 2021



Chairman's Address

Narinder Nayar Chairman, Mumbai First

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by congratulating the Hon'ble Chief Minister for his personal and the government's dedication, in dealing with the difficult health situation for the safety of Mumbaikars. The efforts of the government, timely decisions of key stakeholders in MCGM, must be appreciated in tackling the spread of the pandemic in Maharashtra, given its huge diverse population. Exceptional work being done by the forefront warriors- i.e. doctors, police unit and administrative authorities, must be acknowledged, who were on call 24/7 to protect the citizens of Mumbai and the metropolitan region.

Due to the extended lock down in the city, business activities, have more or less, come to a standstill. Mumbai First offices have also remained closed for the last nine months and our staff have been working from home. Despite the various challenges, several successful online programs have been organized, to mention a few - Championing Smart and Sustainable water use and waste water management in MMR, Daan Utsav - joy of giving week, Safe Mumbai - New Age Policing for Women Safety. Details of the programs are covered in this issue.

We also had a very interesting meeting with Ms. Manisha Mhaiskar, Principal Secretary Environment and Climate Change Government of Maharashtra. We submitted details of our report of the very successful two day International Conference on Climate Crisis - Action for tropical coastal cities like Mumbai, supported by the Government of Maharashtra, European Union, and McKinsey and NEERI were our Knowledge Partners. We emphasized that in our 25th anniversary year, Climate Action continues to be one of our core themes throughout the year. We were very interested to learn from the Principal Secretary, the government's plan to deal with the challenges of climate change and the excellent initiative "Majhi Vasundhara" and assured her of Mumbai First full support to take this forward.

Several programs have been planned for the coming year. A year into the pandemic- what can we do how can our city emerge more liveable, sustainable and resilient.

The past year has indeed affected us all, wherever we are. The full impact of COVID-19 is yet to be seen. The good news is the imminent arrival of vaccines. My hopes remain high. The year 2020 has been hopelessly bad, the new year must be hopefully good.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and safe 2021.

Warm regards,

Narinder Nayar Chairman- Mumbai First



CEO Speaks

Dr. Neville A Mehta CEO, Mumbai First

Dear Friends,

Wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2021. Let us this New Year pledge to safeguard Women in all spheres of life and empower them to lead a life with dignity and honour as equal Human beings without discrimination.

In India, the "Crimes in India -2019 report" shows that crimes against women and girls have increased by 7.3% since the past year. The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4 % in 2019, which is higher than 58.8% in 2018. The country has recorded 3,78,236 cases of crime against women in 2018. India recorded an average of 87 rape cases every day in 2019 and 4,05,861 cases of crimes against women and girls. Not only women and girls, but the figures collated by NCRB, also indicate an upward trend in cases linked to crimes against children. From 2018 the crimes against children increased up by 4.5 % in 2019. But what about the other majority of unreported cases?

In earlier times, women were home-bound domesticated, treated as inferior to male members and dominated by Men. The onset of globalization resulted in their presence on every platform, greater exposure and opportunities in every male-dominated field. The amount of violence against women has increased by many folds. We have women CEOs of Multinational corporates and women cab drivers now in our present world offering, once a primary male-dominated service.

It is heartening to notice a change in the patriarchal mindset of the society but not to the greater extent. Male display superiority by Eve teasing, sexual harassment, rape, domestic violence against women. Other socio-economic struggles such as caste and religion add to the assortment of weapons against women's plight, creating a complex and diverse problem.

Women's safety is a concern in India, as violence is increasing during the pandemic. Violence against women is highly prevalent & intimate partner violence is quite a form. However, we do not have enough data but many countries including India suggest a significant increase in domestic violence cases related to the covid 19 pandemic. To add to the problem reduction in survivors seeking services due to a combination of the lockdown measures and not wanting to attend counselling services for fear of infection.

The outdated Indian judicial policy is another reason for increasing women's safety issues in India. The investigation of violence against women is inefficient. Also, the cases take a long time. Due to social pressure and shame, many women do not come out and report the matter to the police. This is one of the many reasons why the number of cases reported is less than the actual number of violence happening against women.

Violence against women is a human rights violation is recognized in the private domain. Sexual violence & harassment against women in public spaces remains largely unaddressed with few laws or policies in place to address it. India has seen women participate and sometimes excel in all fields of art, science, and culture. The country had women in the cabinet and as leaders of the nation in Indira Gandhi, who served as Prime Minister in the 1980s and more recently, Pratibha Patil between 2007 and 2012.

To improve women's safety in India, we need to have more opportunities for women in every sphere of society. Change in the mindset of people is very essential for the safety of women through family sensitization & educational institutions, men should be taught about respecting females as equals. The judiciary should set up fast-track courts to hear the cases and should be investigated in a time-bound manner with priority. Strict laws only make little sense to solve the problem of women's safety if the implementation of these laws is not enforced in a time-bound manner to solve the issue to a considerable extent. Media should play a responsible role in awareness & behavioural change. It should be sensitized to respect the individual's feelings and respect the privacy of the victim.

Our Film industry too should play an important role in sensitizing women empowerment and equality in society holistically. They should desist from depicting women as victims and objects of pleasure, desire and disrespect. There is a fundamental mismatch in attitudes towards sex within Indian society & what the majority of the entertainment industry portrays. Often celebrities are revered in a manner akin to religious fervour & thus Bollywood has a role in shaping mindsets & behaviours in India. The Third Millennium Development Goal, Set to be fulfilled by 2015, was to ensure gender Equality and Empower women.

Study based on some historical data shows a positive correlation between gender equality in education & economic development. The impact of women working is not just limited to economic growth but also has a positive impact on sustainable development. Gender-diverse companies are 15 per cent likelier to earn more than their competitors & by adding more women to the workforce the global GDP could rise by 26 per cent & in India alone women could grow the economy by up to 60 per cent.

Voices of women, men & young people are echoing throughout the world, saying ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. There is a worldwide call to action to end the impunity & protect the rights of women & girls to live free of violence & discrimination.

Let us Mumbaikars lead the way. Let us pledge to make this change.

Warm regards,

Dr. Neville A Mehta CEO, Mumbai First



Transgender Rights Contemporay Issues & Challenges



Mumbai First & K.C Law College organized a Panel discussion on "Transgender Rights: Contemporary Issues and challenges". Mumbai First & K.C. Law College had taken the lead to invite some prominent judges, lawyers, urban thinkers and citizens to contribute to this discussion.

The broad themes of discussion were as follows:

- Key Highlights of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- Legal recognition of transgender after NALSA Judgement
- Transgender Inclusion in the society; reducing transphobia
- Sensitization and Public awareness.

Dr Kavita Lalchandani (Principal of KC Law college)

spoke briefly about the NALSA Judgement which recognizes Transgenders as the third gender and all rights will be equally available and they will be able to identify themselves as Transgenders.

Mr. Akshat Agarwal (Research Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi.)

spoke about the struggles behind NALSA judgement and what essentially meant for the community.

Vivek Anand (Chief Executive Officer of The Humsafar Trust)

talked about how the issue of inclusion and rights of the transgender community has been a top – down approach. The changes after the striking down of Article 377 was then discussed. He said the Supreme Court has released clear cut directives to the Central Government to design certain programs that would reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding the LGBTQ community but there haven't been any conversations regarding the same.



Mr Yatin Game (Secretary, Mumbai District Legal Services Authority)

mentioned that the National Legal Service Authority is providing free legal assistance to the communities in need. In Mumbai, he has taken on an initiative to give paralegal volunteer training to a few selected transgenders. These people will further spread awareness and educate their community regarding new rules of the court and the fundamental rights available to them.

Ms Salma Khan (president of Kinnar Maa Trust.)

discussed financial, mental and medical issues which the community is facing. She also spoke of the Transgender Welfare Board has been created in Maharashtra which would help the community in fighting these issues.

Simran Shaikh (PHD in Trans Physiology, she currently works with India HIV/AIDS Alliance in New Delhi)

said that the hate crimes have not gone down even after the NALSA judgement and most of these crimes are not reported mainly due to the lack of awareness amongst the transgender community. She says that sensitizing the general public and making them accept the transgender community is slightly more important than creating rules and regulations because unless the general public doesn't accept the community, no law can help.

Amrita Sarkar (the founding members and the Secretary of IRGT – A Global Network of Trans Women and HIV)

shared a personal story of her experience of changing her name on her passport. She highlighted that the process of changing names or the gender on identity cards is very complicated and they are not supportive of the community. The person has to go to the District Magistrate to get the Transgender certificate and if they want to apply for binary (M/F) they have to the DM with medical records.



Championing Smart & Sustainable Water Use and Waste Water Management in MMR



Mumbai First and NEERI organized a three day webinar on 10th to 12th September 2020, in which key themes covered were Smart Water Use, Current scenario and future plans for sewerage systems in MMR, Management of Community Toilet Systems, Integrating Blue-Green Infrastructure with Grey for Urban Water Resilience, The Israeli Comprehensive Approach: Large Scale Reuse of Treated Wastewater for Irrigation, Issues of access to water and essential services, its implications on public health, especially in vulnerable communities in Mumbai, MMR and Emerging challenges with respect to effluent treatment & Current Regulations and Policies- Challenges.

Mr Sharachchandra Lele (Distinguished Fellow, ATREE)

gave us a phenomenal example of Karnataka water policy draft, good water governance was brought in which has dimensions not overlapping with one another. These are - Adequacy and Affordability, Equity and Justice, Sustainability and Resilience, Democracy and Quality and E - flows. Also, he stated, Mumbai, in particular, needs to work on fairness to source watersheds and focus on the question of what environmental impact do they cause when water is resourced from areas farther from the city, distant rivers etc.

Dr Ajit Salvi (Executive Engineer, Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project)

shared a detailed note on Mumbai's sewerage system. Mumbai is divided into several sewerage zones to facilitate decentralisation of sewerage collection and disposal of the same into the sea or creek. With 3850 million litres of water supply, Mumbai has covered up to 68% by the sewerage system. To have an efficient sewerage system, the construction of new plants and the formulation of new discharge standards is underway.



Dr Mazumdar (International Expert, Water and Waste Management, Sulabh International)

shed some light on the successful implementation of efficient wastewater management is feasible in a city like Mumbai where land and residential settlements are scarce. Also, he stated that the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, 2013 added a chapter on Decentralised Sewerage System and On-site sanitation in the Manual on sewerage and sewage treatment systems.





Mr Samrat Basak (Director - Urban Water, WRI India)

highlighted Mumbai's strategy to deal with waterlogging has always been one of 'pot belly and belt'. A month before monsoon, water from one place is shifted to another to avoid waterlogging (loosening the belt). However, in this process, we overlook the fact that these water transporting channels are clogged. Several other reasons are contributing to floods. Hydrological and geographical factors also play a very important role in a region's ability to combat flooding.

Mr Priyank Hirani (Program Director, Tata Centre for Development, University of Chicago)

spoke about water to cloud, a programme developed at the University of Chicago – intending to make the audience aware of how a technological solution on collecting, curating and disseminating data can be an interesting way of working with diverse stakeholders and influencing policies based on evidence.

Mr Dan Alluf (Counsellor MASHAV India, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation)

stated that half of Israel receives less than 100 mm of precipitation annually. Despite having regions that do not see rainfall for decades, Israel water storage is quite impressive and is touted as a miracle. This is achieved through 4 major aspects – efficient policy, nationalisation of water, singular body controlling water supply, optimum use of water. Half of the water in Israel today is reused and recycled and does not directly come from precipitation. Sewerage water is treated, purified and reused in agriculture.

It is important to note that reused sewerage water and drinking water is channelized in two different pipeline networks, by colour coding the pipes. Israel truly is the leader in reusing sewage water, purifying almost 90% of the sewerage water.



Mr J. John (Director of CETP)

described the history of CETP along with the conventional treatment system with Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary treatments. CETP also has some challenges. The nature of effluents that we receive are promiscuous because the natures of industries in this area are different. Also, the plant is vulnerable to shock loads for both volume and strength. The increasing cost of energy is also a substantial challenge as 50% of their costs go towards energy.

Dr Ritesh Vijay (Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR - NEERI - Nagpur)

stated that major issues we need to address where MMR is concerned is the impact of urbanisation on mangroves. There is a lot of sewage and effluent discharge that happens near the mangroves which causes the decline of the water quality and increases sedimentation and siltation while also blocking the natural navigational channel. However, one good point to note is that the mangroves in Mumbai are increasing in size and area covered (not to the landward side, but to the seaward side), which is a big concern and challenge which we need to look into as the water channel keeps getting smaller.





Ms Lubiana Rangwala (Senior Manager - Sustainable Cities, WRI India)

shared with us a released report titled "Unaffordable and Undrinkable - Rethinking Urban Water Access in the Global South is geared towards more equal cities in the Global South". It looks at the 3 indicators of water supply, namely, safe, reliable and accessible. It found that in Mumbai City, slums specifically, some people have no access to water at all. 75% of citizens do not treat their water at all (in both slums and otherwise).

As water from tankers in Mumbai is 52 times more expensive than piped water and this causes an economic and health strain on the poor in Mumbai

Ms Meesha Tandon (subject specialist - urban, water climate change)

stated a major fact that Mumbai is dependent on 7 lakes for its water supply. In terms of waste water, it has a significant capacity to treat waste water but there is still a large amount of waste that gets disposed of without being treated. Almost 3000MLD of treated wastewater is currently being discharged into the sea and that is water that could have been used for many other purposes



Mr Rudresh Sugam (National Technical Advisor - Smart Cities Project, CURE India)

brief about The Circular Economy in the Wastewater sector is a model that is divergent from the linear economy model where we take the resource from the source, process it and find a way to reuse it. India withdraws a lot more groundwater which causes a rapid depletion of our resources. We withdraw more than China and the US combined.

Dr Y.B. Sontakke (Joint Director (WPC), MPCB)

spoke about MPCB being one of the regulator bodies and its major concern is improving the quality of water in Maharashtra. They are urging all local bodies to step-up and provide the required treatment facilities in their respective localities. Additionally they focus on common infrastructure facilities for waste management like CETP, CHWTSDF, CBMWTSDF, etc





Mr Anil Kumar (Managing Director - WATER India Royal Haskoning DHV Consulting Pvt. Ltd)

mentioned that Mumbai's water supply is 3890 MLD and all its water sources are far away from the city. This makes the process of transferring water very expensive. There is a water deficiency of 700 MLD in the city. With respect to existing wastewater treatment facilities in the city, around 2700 MLD of sewage water is generated, out of which 2286 MLD is treated. Mr. Kumar suggests that if the water is reused within the city, the long distances of transferring water and excessive cost can be reduced

Mr Sanjiv Sambandan (Professor, ECE Department, IISc)

suggested that a mix of decentralisation and centralisation of water management will work best for India. Decentralisation is possible at a large scale but on an individual and community level it will be difficult. In terms of goals perception for waste water management, zero waste and circular economies along with the technology should be considered.

Mr. Fredrick Royan (Vice President, Sustainability and Circular Economy ATLAS)

informed regarding The Smart Water Network. It is a framework being adopted by utilities to achieve key operational and sustainability outcomes. The Smart Water Networks Forum (SWAN) is the leading hub for the smart water sector. A non-profit, SWAN brings together key players in the water sector to accelerate the awareness and adoption of data-driven technologies in water and wastewater networks worldwide.

Daan Utsav or Joy of Giving Week

Daan Utsav or Joy of Giving Week happens annually between October 2nd and October 8th every year. This year, Mumbai First & its Associates collaborated for Geriatric Care.



The City of Dreams which was otherwise buzzing with activities for people of all age groups seemed to have taken a heavy toll on the elderly, quite, unfortunately.

To break away from this glum situation and in continuum with the true spirit of Daan Utsav, Mumbai First and its associates curated the week of Joy for the elderly. This week had professionals in the field of mental health, artists, wellness coaches, nutritionists, doctors come together for the well-being of the elderly. Vibrant, virtual, sessions were organized for the elderly through the week.

Mumbai First in collaboration with Adhata Trust hosted a seven-day thematic virtual event for Daan Utsav - Joy of Giving Week between the 2nd and 8th of October, 2020. Each day had two sessions that were curated specially for our elderly friends.



witnessed a 'Zumba for the Elderly' conducted by Ms Vruti Chhadva and a live interactive session on 'Embracing Life with Positivity' from Dr Prachi Bedekar. The session was a mix of a well-placed, energetic session of dance moves along with tips on nutrition, healthy lifestyles and quick fixes to anxiety faced by the elderly owing to the ongoing pandemic

witnessed an Interactive session on 'Breath in Life' conducted by Mr Pravin Manker and a "Magic Show" with Magician Chirag Jethwaney. Mr Manker shared the importance of purpose and living in the present with the virtual audience present. This

was followed by a breathtaking session of rare and mind-boggling tricks by a very accomplished magician and renowned mentalist, Chirag.







Classical Music Show played on the electric guitar by Mr Aniket Gundewar, a "Musical Evening" with Magician Ms Evita Mendonca and a "Fusion Dance" session conducted by Mr Robin Tusamar. While Evita took the virtual audience down memory lane with her performance of old

Hindi Film music and a few English Hits, Aniket enthralled the audience with his abilities in classical music using the electric guitar. Robin Tushamar had the young at heart grooving to some music and urged them to dance with a sense of abandon, not having to worry about who was watching.

witnessed a "MANAN - Dance and Movements Session" by Ms Nandini Ray and Ms Vidhya Shenoy from The Blue Sphere. Manan was an assimilation of Dance, Music, Drama, Art and Movements that we assimilated to create a session which is tailormade for the benefit of the elderly population. An initiative for the elderly – where they got the opportunity to release, express, enhance

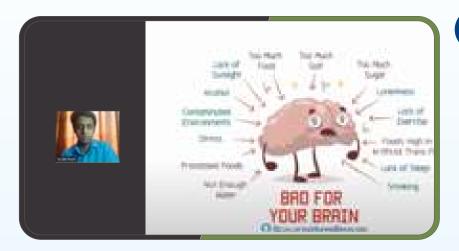


emotions as well as build their social, cognitive, physical selves. Post the MANAN session, some exercises were shared to help with fine motor control, gait and balance of older adults thereby improving their ability to perform activities of daily living and maintain their independence. fine motor skills were shared and virtual audiences were urged to practice the same.



Day witnessed a "Yoga for Senior Citizens" session with Ms Gayatri Thakkar -this yoga session was curated specially for the elderly. The session combined yoga asanas and laughter therapy for senior citizens. Mumbai Storytellers Society presented 'Kahaniyon ka Guldasta', a bilingual storytelling session along with representatives from the Mumbai Storytellers Society.





was a live session on 'Brain Gym - Brain and Memory Exercises' for the elderly. Session 1 conducted by Dr NN Prem provided a theoretical understanding into the process of ageing and Ms Amruta Lovekar walked the audience through a handful of exercises that help keep the brain sharp.

witnessed a session on 'The Concept of Ikigai' with Ms Vinaya Vaishampayan and a 'Traditional Garba' session with Ms Mitali Raul. She choreographed a song and showcased a performance especially for the elderly.





MF & Sneha Campaign

on Violence against women in the Urban slums of MMR

November 27- December 13,2020



Mumbai First & Sneha came together for a campaign known as 'ChupithodoHinsachodo' to spread awareness and prevent violence against women in the urban slums of MMR. This extensive 16 day campaign started on November 27th with the help of Sneha's community volunteers known as Sanginis. Everyday 15 volunteers (approximately) were on the ground to bring about awareness

about domestic violence among women from diverse backgrounds. The conversation with women focused on to change status quo which is usually set by societal standards. The focus was to create solutions which will help them break silence and stand up against discrimination and the injustices they face in their households.

Besides there was an artist working across 5 locations of Dharavi and Govandi to depict occurrences and perceptions of violence, spread messages about standing up against the widespread prevalence of the issue in the slums. Additionally, wall art depictions carried helpline details for women to reach out to concerned stakeholders if they were facing domestic violence and trauma.



Building Champions for a greener tomorrow







Mumbai First in collaboration with Voltas, Bombay Natural History Society and the Learning Space Foundation conducted a virtual environmental awareness program, 'Building Champions for a greener tomorrow' for children in schools in and around Thane. These students are from underprivileged backgrounds with limited access to online education.

In continuum with our pledge towards climate action earlier this year, the goal of this collaboration with Voltas is to create young champions of change, who will spread awareness regarding energy conservation and eco-friendly practices in schools of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. It was a one-hour session for children from classes 5,6,7 and 8.

BNHS (working in the area of environmental awareness, conservation education programs and nature trails) has curated a module for this session to engage with the young minds. This Module gave a general idea about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan plastic pollution and cleanliness. Additionally, there was an introduction and quiz by Voltas for children. In which children participated enthusiastically.





'Safe Mumbai: New Age Policing for Women's Safety'

Mr. Naresh Fernandes. He mentioned male and female residents' perceptions regarding Mumbai. He stated important facts



1. Mumbai ranked third last 2. In a statement issued by year in terms of reported the National Commission rapes and second in terms for Women, domestic of molestation and topped violence has increased the list of cases of sexual almost 2.5 times since the harassment in the public beginning of the pandemic. transport system

Dr. Poornima Advani, Former Chair National Commission for Women mentioned that beneficiaries need to know about existing schemes, the concerned officers and helpline numbers. Police investigation, forensic procedures and due process should be seen to be adhered to in order to give confidence to people. Also, the condition of women in shelter homes is an issue of concern and calls for serious attention.



Dr. Advani stated the fact regarding women's requirement in the system that there is a 33% reservation for Women police officers in India and 35% globally, however in Mumbai Maharashtra, there is about 7.3%.

Mr.Dharker highlighted that India figures in the last 20% when it comes to gender inequality figures, a natural consequence of which is male domination. Studies on men's opinions on violence reveal that they feel women

should tolerate violence for the sake of the family and a lot who also believe women deserve to be beaten. Also, violence on social media is an area which requires urgent attention.

Dr Shah spoke about unique lessons that Mumbai can incorporate, a multi-dimensional approach which is a huge factor in city design, more accurate data on unsafe areas, street lighting and submitting a comprehensive report thereby to relevant authorities. A mindset change is a very important part of prevention strategy. Safe public spaces, public toilets with lighting and other amenities, toilet facilities in schools and colleges and access to leisure are important considerations when it comes to women safety in Mumbai. Curriculum in schools and colleges needs to incorporate gender equality and gender sensitization.



Smt.Aswati Dorje mentioned the **Police Didi system** is one where Mumbai Police work closely with municipal schools and discuss good touch / bad touch, whom they can reach out for help, etc. **3000 cases have been reported since the program commenced in 2015.** Counselling centers have been initiated by TISS (8 in number) and Crimes Against Women, Police (3 in number).

Dr.Nandita Shah mentioned that safety of women is an issue irrespective of class. A recent campaign by Akshara Centre in collaboration with Special Cell for Women and Children (a program of DWCD, GOM and TISS) focused on the need for men and women to report domestic violence in wake of the rising cases during the pandemic.

WebApp-Stand Up Against Violence is a joint collaboration between Akshara Centre, a women's right organisation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (RCI-VAW) and Department of Women and Child (Government of Maharashtra).

The app includes mobile numbers of State and non-State agencies, service providers, women's movement groups responding to violence against women across Maharashtra at sub district level. This information will make it easier for women survivors and supporters to access assistance

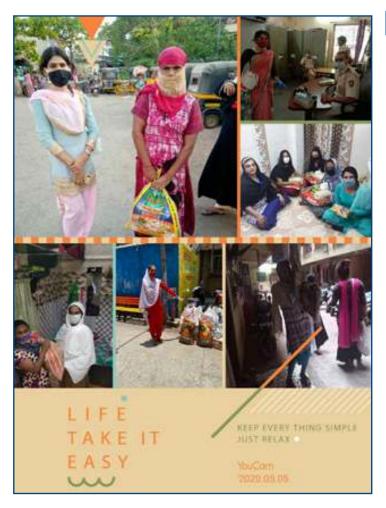
Action Points from the session are as follows:

- Citizen interaction with the police should be increased.
- Safety audits should be popularized- in and around college campuses and Employers of substantial numbers of women should also consider
- Awareness campaigns with Mumbai Police, Akshara and the Maharashtra Commission for Women to help citizens respond better in case of emergencies.
- Town planners and architects might also be sensitized not to create single use areas such as BKC and Ballard Estate. The existing ones could be enlivened with night activities, as in case of Nariman Point





Mumbaigiri



Kinnar Maa Trust started in 2014. This year, the trust completed six years on 20th September 2020. The idea of starting this trust was to provide basic facilities to the transgender community as they are deprived of it. They create awareness in the transgender community through different programmes like awareness on sanitation and hygiene with Swach Bharat Abhiyan, Importance of Education with SNDT Women's University, health camps regarding HIV AIDS, Drug Abuse prevention in Transgender and sex worker community along with National Institute of Social Defense, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

During the lockdown, Kinnar Maa Trust distributed ration, masks and sanitisers to more than 15,000 Transgender in Mumbai Metropolitan Region. They also provided sanitation kits to different police stations, petrol pumps and post offices in Mumbai.

Under the guidance of Ms Salma Khan, President of Kinner Maa Ek Samajik Sanstha, Co-vice President of Maharashtra State Transgender Welfare Board, Panel Judge of National Lok Adalat, Mumbai District Legal Service Authority, the trust was able to spread awareness about covid 19 through social media platforms to the community. They maintained social distancing norms and sanitation requirements during their relief drives. As lockdown affected their community livelihood, many of them went through depression therefore, they initiated donation on various sites. Fortunately, they received monetary help for their community.

Kinnar Maa Trust received support from the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India due to which they were able to provide one-time financial support of Rs 1500 to transgender community of Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Recently, they drafted a letter regarding the prolonged issues faced by the transgender community to Mr Bhagat Singh Koshyari, the Governor of Maharashtra. They made a request for employment opportunities in the government sector for members of the transgender community



Life is a struggle, don't give up

Mr Anil Hallkar

On 24 March 2020, the government announced a nationwide lockdown restricting the movement of the entire population of India. Nearly all services and factories were shut due to the pandemic. As the end of the lockdown period approached, state governments recommended extending the lockdown. With businesses and commercial activities brought to a halt, the livelihoods of millions were at stake.

The Govt. swung into action and started distributing rations and food supplies for free. Individuals and NGO's started distributing medicines, masks, and sanitisers to the poor and needy. Sadly pre covid, the limelight was not given to mental issues and adjusting to the new status quo was difficult mentally due to various reasons.



Mr. Anil Hallkar being a differently-abled person, He faced a lot of difficulties. After some time he realized that besides addressing the physical needs and the physical health of the populace we must also address their mental health. He spoke to a lot of people to find out their concerns. It emerged that worries about an uncertain future had caused anxiety and depression in them. All of this has resulted in many of them committing suicide and ending their lives.

On a humanitarian basis, He wanted to help people in these difficult times and give them hope to fight their anxiety and depression and since he is a writer, the best way he could think of was by writing short motivational stories like that would give people the strength to hang on and give life one more chance.

What emerged after a month's strenuous effort



Both books contain short stories that deal with the lives of ordinary people who are facing different types of challenges in their lives. As things get bad, they start thinking of an easy way out that is suicide. But then due to optimistic thinking, they manage to overcome their difficulties and come out of their depression. As he wanted to make the book available to everyone for free! Using Social Media he circulated a message that he was willing to mail free copies of these books to whoever wanted them. Many people responded and I sent a free digital copy of my books to them.



Majhi Vasundhara



Majhi Vasundhara

Mumbai First is proud to join the Government of Maharashtra to protect and save the environment and become an Environment Ambassador. Mumbai First has taken a pledge to protect the environment and work towards the climate crisis.

Mumbai First urges each one of you to pledge and be an Environment Ambassador to do your bit for the environment by taking an e-pledge under Majhi Vasundhara. For further information log into https://majhivasundhara.in/en/majhi-vasundhara-pledge



If you are a passionate Mumbaikar, A Corporate, Civil society organization, Academicians, Students, Institutions, passionate citizens about our city our Mumbai are welcome to collaborate with Mumbai First.

Write to us at info@mumbaifirst.org



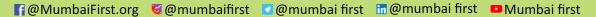






Volunteer with us!

If you are enthusiastic and passionate for Mumbai, Write to us at info@mumbaifirst.org Along with your resume, please include a brief note regarding your area of interest and skills.





Office Address

3rd Floor, Y. B. Chavan Centre, Gen. Jagannath Bhosale Marg, Next to Sachivalaya Gymkhana, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021, India. Follow us on **f y**• 22810070/71
• info@mumbaifirst.org
website www.mumbaifirst.org

Published by: Dr. Neville A. Mehta

Written, Co-ordinated & Edited by: **Aishwarya Sontakke**

Design & Print by: Ideaas Communications