

Experience the power of art at the Mumbai Urban Art Festival

Featured is the art installation "The Plastic We Live With" by Luzinterruptus, a Madrid-based artistic group that carries out art interventions in urban public spaces. Mumbai First, along with the support of our community, collected plastic bags to bring this thought-provoking art to life.



3rd Floor, Y. B. Chavan Centre,
Gen. Jagannath Bhosale Marg,
Next to Sachivalaya Gymkhana,
Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021,
India.



022 2281 0070



info@mumbaifirst.org

connect with us

@ MumbaiFirst

@ MumbaiFirst

@ MumbaiFirst

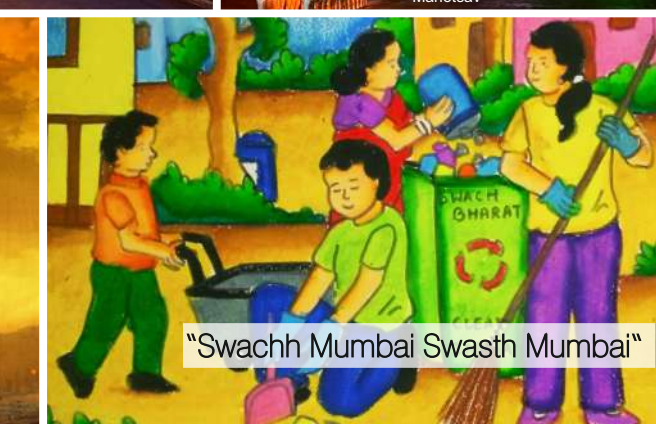
Published by: Mumbai First Team
Curated by: Revati Gokhale &
Ujjwal Gurdaswani

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

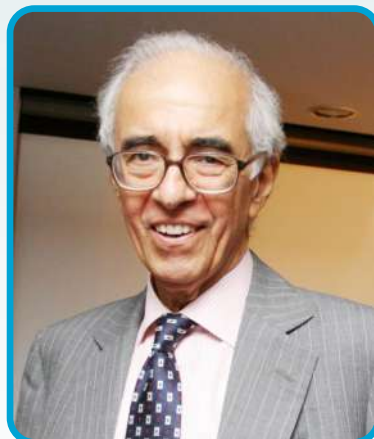


JAN
2023

First & Foremost



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Dear Friends,

Let me start by once again, expressing our grateful thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde, for so generously sparing time to see me and my Executive Board colleagues. We congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister on his several initiatives for the development of MMR, such as clean and hygienic slums pockets, refurbishing Koliwad, beautification of the city and tourists spots, primary healthcare, good quality roads and pavements, lighting up the blind spots for safety across MMR and Mumbai. Most importantly, we applaud the Chief Minister's initiatives in Public Health and Education. Mumbai First fully supports these initiatives and is fully committed to working with the government towards making Mumbai one of the most vibrant global cities to live, work and invest in.

We also apprised the Chief Minister of our various initiatives and informed him that in the Silver Jubilee Year of Mumbai First, we identified **"Climate Action"** as one of our core themes and organised successful conferences where national and international experts participated. The deliberations from our conferences were forwarded to the government and were included in the Maharashtra "Climate Action Plan". We also updated the Chief Minister of our various programs under mobility and infrastructure, local governance, amongst other things. We assured the Chief Minister of our full support, to take forward his excellent ideas **to transform Mumbai into a World Class Truly Global city** and help restore the title of **"Urbs Prima in India"** which Mumbai has borne with pride and certain panache.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the **Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi who takes over the Presidency of the prestigious G20**. This indeed is a momentous occasion and will offer a unique opportunity for India to shape the global economy and to contribute to the global agenda with our own priorities and ideas. During the Presidency year, meetings of various working groups comprising think tanks, private sectors, civil society and others are held in various parts of the country. We have proposed to the authorities in Delhi, to hold the Urban 20 Summit (U20) in Mumbai. The key focus of **U20 is Climate change and sustainable development, including socio-economic issues at the nexus of the Sustainable Development Goals**. We believe Mumbai is particularly suited to deal with the **Vulnerability of Coastal Cities**, as it truly represents the kind of challenges coastal cities face due to climatic disasters.

On this occasion, we will invite Mayors of G20 cities and together with the European Union, a meeting of the Covenant of Mayors will be organised in Mumbai. This will be an excellent platform to showcase Mumbai's economic, cultural and infrastructure strengths.

On the occasion of celebrating five decades of the relations between India and Italy, I had the privilege and honour of sharing the platform with the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra – Shri Devendra Fadnavis and the Ambassador of Italy - Mr. Vincenzo De Luca, The Deputy Chief Minister outlined his futuristic vision of infrastructure for the development of Maharashtra which is the nation's growth engine and also recalled EU-Mumbai initiatives, to help make Mumbai a truly world class city. The Deputy Chief Minister also promptly agreed to the proposal of Ambassador De Luca that a sister-city relationship be established between Mumbai and Milan. Acknowledging this proposal, he said that this will be a "win-win situation" for Mumbai which is the financial capital of India and Milan, which is the powerhouse for fashion and high-end engineering products and services.

Our work on various missions is continuing and several programs have been organised in the recent past, details are available in the ensuing pages.

Before concluding, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive season and a happy and joyful year ahead.

Kind regards.

Narinder Nayar

Chairman – Mumbai First



EVENTS

Daan Utsav

For Daan Utsav 2022, on Oct 7th, Mumbai First collaborated with SPARC to organise a Mental Health workshop for the Mahila Milan, a group of female community leaders in Shivaji Nagar settlement, Govandi.

SPARC's flagship programme 'Mahila Milan' is a network of women from poor neighbourhoods who organised themselves into savings groups. For the last 2 years, this network has been working on health and in the process of understanding health service access challenges in their areas, they understood that health issues are not plain physical but also mental and psychosomatic in nature, and expressed their wish to understand it better.

To try and meet this need in the community, a two-hour-long workshop engaged with 25 women leaders from Mahila Milan on the basics of mental health, recognising symptoms of mental health issues and understanding how it can be embedded into their work in the community. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Shubhada Maitra, Professor at the Centre for Health & Mental Health, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) & Ms. Ashwini Survase, Project Manager at TISS. The ladies of Mahila Milan had many pertinent questions and views on what they understand as Mental health and how they can deal with and equip themselves to cope with their mental stresses and assist others in the community to do the same.



My tryst with Eklavya: Gandhi Yatra

by Madhu Parki

It is said that Mahatma Gandhi is not a person, it is rather an idea that has been imbibed in Indians. Every individual has a unique perspective about the thought called "Gandhi". One of the interns at Mumbai First, Ms. Madhu Parki got a chance to explore Mahatma Gandhi's journey during her internship at Mumbai First. She attended the 'Gandhi Yatra' organised by the Blue Ribbon Movement under Eklavya 6.0 on 2nd October 2022.



This yatra started from the library at Mani Bhavan, where all the participants started the day with introductions. They further moved to the auditorium to attend a talk by Meghashyam Aajgaonkar, Chief Secretary, who shared many interesting and rare stories about Mahatma Gandhi related to Mani Bhavan. Then, they walked through the Gandhi Sangrahalaya- a depiction of Gandhi's life journey.

As they kicked off the Gandhi Yatra- a 2 kilometres walk from Mani Bhavan, the very first stop was August Kranti Maidan. Formerly known as Gwalior Tank, and now a place of historic importance, August Kranti Maidan was the place where Gandhi launched the Quit India movement and gave the slogan of "Do or Die" on 7th August 1942. Today, it stands as a Smarak (martyr monument) with a white marble pillar and a lotus on top.

Then the yatra proceeded to Gokuldas Tejpal House where Congress was founded in 1885. Today, it serves as a banquet hall for marriages and other social events. Coincidentally, this is geographically exactly opposite to August Kranti Maidan.

After walking for some distance, they visited Gandhi Book Library, which was also the final destination of this yatra. The birthday celebrations of the beloved Bapu began with a cake cutting ceremony followed by snacks. The day came to an end with each of the participants sharing their perspectives about Gandhi- the person and eternal thought.



Reviving Art, Culture & Heritage Mission

Mumbai@75 Series: Making of a Cultural Metropolis -

Mumbai First organised the first-panel discussion of the three-part series under 'Mumbai @75', focusing on three key areas of development in Mumbai's Art, Culture & Heritage, Economic Growth, and Governance.

Through the first panel discussion on Art, Culture & Heritage, we reminisced about the journey of this Urbs Prima City thus far, how it has evolved over the years for better or worse and how resilient the Heritage & Culture of Mumbai have been as it witnessed many achievements of the city. We aim at revisiting Mumbai's cultural transformation through the decades along with a take on the way forward.

The discussion was held at the Visitors Center, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum. The session titled 'Making of a Cultural Metropolis' had eminent panellists like Mr. Sabyasachi Mukerjee, Mr. Vikas Dilawari, Dr. Manjari Kamat, Mr. Asad Lalljee, Ms. Rochelle Potkar, Ms. Raell Padamsee and the session moderated by Mr. Naresh Fernandes. This event was supported by Kala Ghoda Association, AVID Learning and CSMVS Museum.



Clean Mumbai Project

12th – 19th October 2022

As the festive season of lights & decoration arrived, Mumbai First & Clean Mumbai Foundation jointly initiated a cleanliness drive in 'Ward A' which began on Wednesday 12th, October 2022 till Wednesday 19th, October 2022.

Issues related to Solid Waste, Encroachment, Parking, Maintenance of trees, and painting of old walls have been observed and intimated to the concerned ward officer of Ward A. Following was the schedule for the Clean Up & Brushing drive (with BMC SWM Department).

A ward-level cleanliness drive

As the City is approaching a festive season, Clean Mumbai Foundation & Mumbai First jointly initiate a six-day clean-up drive. With the support of the Narwekar family, & MCGM SWM department of 'A ward' this drive will begin

From 12th-19th October 2022

A Ward, Mumbai

- Day 1: Colaba Post Office to Sassoon Dock (Oct 12, 2022)
- Day 2: Sassoon Dock to Colaba Causeway (Oct 13, 2022)
- Day 3: Captain Prakash Pethe Marg, Cuffe Parade (Oct 14, 2022)
- Day 4: Strand Cinema to Fariyas Hotel Mumbai (Oct 17, 2022)
- Day 5: IMC Marg, ABC&D Rd & Maharshi Karve Rd (Oct 18, 2022)
- Day 6: GD Somani Rd to World Trade Centre (Oct 19, 2022)

If you spot any corner in your vicinity untidy or unclean, click a picture & share it with us on this number **+91 8890233384**

Connect with Us
info@mumbaifirst.org
 Mumbaifirst Mumbaifirst

Mumbai @75: Second Panel Discussion

Is Mumbai still the Economic Powerhouse of India?

The second edition of the three-part series, 'Mumbai @75: Is Mumbai still the Economic Powerhouse of India?' where the focus lay on the trajectory of the city's economic growth since Independence and how Mumbai emerged as the financial and business centre of the nation, was conducted on 13th December 2022.

The esteemed panelists in the discussion were Dr. Shirish Sankhe, Dr. Brindra Jagirdar, Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda and Mr. Shankar Jadhav along with Ms. Aarti Wig as the Moderator. Mr. Sanjay Ubale set the context of the panel discussion.

The session highlighted how Mumbai can still hold its place as an economic engine of the country with the help of a citizen-centric approach to create a business-friendly platform & reforms with ease of doing business & living.



MEETING WITH CHIEF MINISTER



Mumbai First leadership team had a successful meeting on Monday, 28th November, 2022 with the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shindeji**, at the Chief Minister's office in Mantralaya, Mumbai.

The Chief Minister shared several initiatives and development in the MMR such as clean and hygienic slums pockets, refurbishing Koliwad, beautification of city and tourists spots, primary healthcare, good quality roads, and pavements, lighting up the blind spots for safety, etc. across MMR and Mumbai in order to make Mumbai a safe world-class city. Most important was the

CM's initiative on Public Health Care '**Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana**' (Our health- centres) and creating accessible and affordable primary health clinics across various wards of Mumbai.

The scope of the discussion encompasses a range of critical initiatives related to mobility and infrastructure, climate change, public health and education, and local governance, among other areas of importance. Mumbai First fully supports and endorses these initiatives undertaken by the government and is committed to working together toward making Mumbai one of the most vibrant global cities to live, work and invest in.



Meeting with Guardian Minister & Minister of Education Mr Deepak Kesarkar

Mumbai First Governing Board & team were invited to attend the launch of “**Swachh Mumbai Swasth Mumbai**” a flagship initiative of the Guardian Minister to clean Mumbai and rejuvenate the city. The board met with the minister and discussed future initiatives that can be taken up with his office in areas like Solid Waste Management, tourism, beautification of the city etc. Dr. Mehta also addressed the gathering giving the view of Mumbai First as a representative of the citizens & corporate interest in the city



BLEND Network initiated by VVOB

Organised by Pratham
(our partner on Education Mission)

The BLEND network has organisations from around the world. Their main purpose is to support blended CPD (Continuous Professional Development) for educators. This group of education experts have developed a Guide on Blended CPD. In order to start the dissemination of the the guide, this group wanted to consult with think tanks, research organisations, practitioners, experts, and officials. Mumbai First joined the consultation, interacted with other stakeholders and presented our thoughts on the Continuous Professional Development of education professionals



Meeting with IACC at the US Consulate

Mumbai First team member participated in the in-person Round Table Discussion on the 'Way Forward: Climate Change Series' on 14th, December 2022, at the US Consulate General, BKC Mumbai, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm, organised by IACC in association with the US Consulate General Mumbai.

The discussion was mainly to brainstorm on the 'White paper - Adaptation by MSMEs in India and Best Practices' released this year in July along with our Knowledge Partner Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. The objective is to plan the next steps of implementation & work beyond the Six City Drive to create an impact and bring in change.



G20 in Mumbai

Mumbai First team attended the first official side event of the **Development Working Group under India's Presidency of the G20 2023**, titled Data for Development: Role of G20 in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

This event was hosted in person by India's G20 Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Government of India, the Observer Research Foundation, the Office of the Secretary-General's Tech Envoy, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The event was designed as a curtain-raiser for further deliberations on D4D in the DWG during India's G20 Presidency. The session would be attended by participants from various walks of life, including representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and private companies. The themes discussed were -

- Rejuvenating legacy systems: From data to public value intelligence
- Models for the future: Leveraging IoT, Big Data and AI for the SDGs





St+art India Foundation

With a belief that public art has a vital role to play in society, as it creates spaces for dialogue and communication, educates people about visual culture and the arts, provides opportunities for emerging artists, and gives contemporary identities to major cities in India, the St+art India Foundation was founded in 2014. The goal was to bring art out of traditional spaces such as galleries and museums and into the public realm. Currently, St+Art India project encompasses seven cities across India, focussing on specific localities within the cities.



One of the founders, Hanif Kureshi has been actively involved in the street art community. Meanwhile, Arjun Bahl and Thanish Thomas have a background in events and logistics. Giulia Ambrogio worked as a curator and Akshat Nauriya is a filmmaker and visual artist. They all got in touch during the Khirki Extension street art festival when they found that they were all in six degrees of separation wanting to do the same thing - make public spaces more vibrant and interactive for the people who use them the most, and to make art more democratic as a medium.



That's how their first project took shape in Shahpur Jat.

The team understood that in India, a country this crowded, the streets are where magic happens. Many people come from rural towns in the city, where communication through walls has always been normal. Thus, these people were the first ones to welcome street art in their localities. The concept of 'urban art' was fairly new and the team was finding their way into it. With the vision in mind, after their second project, they established St+art India Foundation.



The idea and journey of introducing art for public spaces in Mumbai by St+art India:

For their first project in Mumbai in 2014, St+art India worked in different areas in the city which inhabit a variety of demographics. From more affluent areas with internationally exposed crowds like Bandra to areas like Mahim East which is predominated by locals, art was showcased to all. The team mentioned that areas like Mahim East immediately connected to the art and welcomed it with open arms and witnessed a lot of community engagement too. Mumbai being the financial city, didn't have that sort of creativity flowing in the regular day to day lives of the people. In 2017, after the first run of the Sassoon Dock Art Project, the team immediately saw the potential of urban art in the city and decided to come up with the second season in 2020 which was further pushed to 2022 due to the pandemic. Their community grew organically over time, fuelling the willingness to build something bigger in Mumbai which brought them the Mumbai Urban Art Festival.

Challenges and obstacles faced by the St+art India Foundation in their movement:

One of the team members of St+art India duly mentioned that the biggest challenge for everyone across the world in the art and culture space is the support and funding and perhaps in India more than in other countries. St+art India team believes that creative industries in the country do not get the right support and recognition it deserves. Unfortunately, the companies and authorities would first use their funds to overcome more pressing issues like children, environment, poverty etc. St+Art believes that art along with other things is a motor of growth. However, it is hard to get the right support amongst other issues. The country currently has very few patrons of art, due to which the push towards making art and culture the main agenda of growth and urban regeneration takes a step back.

Another challenge they have faced in past years is that government bodies get stuck in bureaucracy despite wanting to support such initiatives as anything of this sort has never happened before in Mumbai. This slows down the process and oftentimes does not allow the team to bring our vision to life. The aim of St+Art India Foundation is to make art accessible for all and for that it needs to involve the communities residing in the localities. To be mindful of different aspects of the communities is needed as working with different cultural and social norms can be delicate.



St+art India Foundation shared that they feel grateful they have found partners that share the same vision as they do and get the support that helps achieve their goals. However, since maintaining any culture is novel, they often do not have as many helping hands as they would like. The team is always working long hours and gets less production support.

Encouraging citizen participation and support along with a way forward:

As mentioned by the team, St+art India believes art is for all. They encourage everyone to be a part of this movement in whichever capacity possible. They are always on the lookout for volunteers, students from colleges, children that reside at the dock, art enthusiasts from all backgrounds, anyone and everyone who is passionate about arts. Interested people can reach out to them on social media to get involved. They believe that any support, or even spreading the word would make one the participant of the movement. The team of St+art India is trying their best to adapt to the ever changing landscapes of the city and integrate art within them.