Dear Mumbai First Family,

As we enter into another year full of new opportunities, it is with great pleasure and anticipation that we present First & Foremost, the latest edition of our newsletter. In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of Mumbai, our commitment to progress, sustainability, & community remains unwavering. This newsletter serves as a testament to the collective efforts & achievements that propel our beloved city forward.

During the last quarter, Mumbai First was involved in many significant initiatives in areas like Urban Infrastructure, Environment and facilitating dialogue with many global partners for the betterment of the city. The initiatives of Mumbai First were also recognised by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and we were invited to speak at the Urban Transformation Summit, organised by Economic Times and MMRDA.

As we navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world, our commitment to sustainable development remains a top priority. The activities we undertake, shed light on our unwavering efforts to create a greener, cleaner Mumbai that future generations can inherit with pride. In addition to the past activities, we are thrilled to announce some of our most important activities for upcoming months, dedicated to making the city resilient and ready for the ever-growing threat of climate change through our Newsletter.

We also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, partners, and supporters. Together, let us continue to build a Mumbai that is not only a financial powerhouse but also a city that fosters innovation, inclusivity, and a high quality of life for all.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey.

- Mumbai First Team
Climate Resilience in Mumbai: People Must Lead the Change
Mumbai First & AVID Learning’s panel discussion on World Habitat Day

Mumbai First in collaboration with AVID Learning curated a thought-provoking panel discussion on the occasion of "World Habitat Day" at the Asiatic Society, Mumbai, on 3rd October.

Our panel of distinguished experts, including renowned Architect P. K. Das, Economist Kunal Khanna, Urbanist Lubaina Rangwala, Theatre pedagogue Meghana AT, and the moderator, award-winning Journalist and Editor Vaishnavi Chandrashekhar, drew upon their diverse backgrounds in policy, research and the arts to explore on how citizens can actively contribute to safeguarding our city’s future.

The event emphasized the crucial role of community engagement, innovative advocacy, sustainable financing, and other impactful interventions in transforming Mumbai into a model of sustainable urban living. The panel provided valuable insights into Mumbai's climate resilience frameworks and underscored the pivotal role its citizens play in driving meaningful change. As we navigate the challenges ahead, collaboration and informed action will be instrumental in creating a sustainable and resilient future for Mumbai.
Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Visit & Meeting

The FATF promotes global standards to mitigate the risks, and assesses whether countries are taking effective action with respect to Money Laundering / Terrorism Financing (ML/TF). From MHA’s due diligence, they shortlisted two reputed NGOs in Mumbai, namely Mumbai First and the other being SAIFEE Trust. 2 Members from FATF visited Mumbai First and conducted an audit with respect to our activities, statutory compliances, financial management & utilization of funds and to assess our awareness about ML/TF.

Visit of Global Bridges Delegation, Germany: Study Group to India

Global Bridges is a non-profit, non-partisan organization in Berlin with more than 400 members and a global network of over 2,600 Young Leaders Alumni. Global Bridges aims to bring together young and experienced leaders from around the world. Founded in 2010 by Young Leaders Alumni and members of Atlantik-Brücke, Global Bridges has developed its own identity that looks in all directions. The main focus is on China, the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and Russia.
Their aim was to experience Indian culture, to acknowledge & respect differences, & to initiate, forge & maintain long-term relationships with our Indian academics, journalists, politicians, NGOs, & religious leaders.

Actionables discussed in the meeting:

- The current rise in the Air Quality Index in Mumbai demands immediate action and a comprehensive strategy.
- Clean-up initiatives targeting waste reduction and improved cleanliness help combat pollution, contributing to air pollution mitigation.
- Promoting sustainable transportation via cycling lanes and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure reduces emissions. Adopting electric vehicles over traditional cars is key to curbing pollution.
- The introduction and expansion of metro train services offer a viable solution for efficient and eco-friendly urban transportation.
The SPG Environment Award Jury Committee meeting took place on 22nd November, 2023 for the selection process. The deliberations included quality and impact assessment of the entries received through the website.

Another round of discussion was held on 11th December 2023 to finalise the recipient and other arrangements for the day.
ET Urban Transformation Summit Maharashtra
Redefine Urbanisation: Innovate, Integrate & Elevate

Mumbai First Chairman, Mr. Narinder Nayar was invited to speak at the Urban Transformation Summit Maharashtra, organised by the Economic Times in collaboration with MMRDA & Larsen & Toubro on 28th November 2023
Mr. Nayar shed a light on the kind of urban innovations and strategies needed to transform Mumbai and MMR region into a world-class city/region on par with cities in the EU or USA. Also, he mentioned initiatives that Mumbai First is taking to get the people of Mumbai to become involved in the movement for making the city sustainable and resilient.

The summit delved into transformative solutions and best practices to transform Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) into an economic growth centre & financing urban infrastructure hub offering world-class infrastructure, citizen-friendly services and business-friendly environment in line with the vision to make Maharashtra a trillion-dollar economy.
Appreciation Letter from the Governor

Mumbai First Chairman Mr. Narinder Nayar received an encouraging letter from Governor Ramesh Bais, praising Mumbai First’s efforts & Mr. Nayar’s leadership. Mumbai First team is now seeking a meeting to discuss upcoming plans with the Hon. Governor, building on these discussions.

Ramesh Bais
GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

19 October 2023

Dear Mr Narinder Nayar,

I was delighted to go through the reports of the Global Coastal Cities Summit 2023 organised by Mumbai First and sent by you along with your letter of 28th August.

The report ‘Building and Developing Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Metropolises - A Blueprint for Coastal Cities’ has rightly identified the challenges faced by coastal cities such as Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, rapid pace of urbanization, population growth and environmental degradation. I was pleased to read the Outcome of the Summit, Key Recommendations and Implementation Strategies.

I also went through the Session wise Summary of the Summit Proceedings and found the Key Takeaways interesting and insightful.

I congratulate ‘Mumbai First’ for organizing discussions on important issues concerning Mumbai and other Coastal cities at large and appreciate you for the excellent leadership provided by you in bringing about the discussion.

Warm regards

Sincerely

Shri Narinder Nayar
Chairman - Mumbai First
Mumbai 400021
Mumbai First successfully hosted the first ever prestigious Sohrab Pirojsha Godrej Environment Award in collaboration with the Godrej Group on Saturday 13th January 2024 at the Godrej One, Vikhroli. The Award aimed at celebrating the legacy of Mr. S. P. Godrej, one of the pioneers of the environment movement in India who worked tirelessly to contribute towards sustainability and environment conservation.

We congratulate Dr. Ashok Khosla, an eminent Environmentalist on being awarded the S.P Godrej Environment Award! Dr. Khosla's contribution to the environment and academic world on the global front is unprecedented. We were fortunate to have a stellar panel of Jury, Steering Committee to drive this Award.
The Jury Committee consisted:

- Mr. Nadir Godrej - Chairman & MD, Godrej Industries
- Dr. Pheroza Godrej
- Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar - FRS, Former Chairman of National Innovation Foundation & Former Director General of CSIR
- Mr. Bittu Sahgal - Environmental activist, writer, and the founder of Sanctuary Nature Foundation
- Mr. Homi Khusrokhan - Former President of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
- Ms. Shloka Nath - CEO, the India Climate Collaborative
- Ms. Nandini Dias - Executive & Governing Board Member, Mumbai First
- Mr. Roger C. B. Pereira - Vice Chairman, Mumbai First

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed Keynote Speaker Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, FRS, for his invaluable insights and expertise. We would also like to thank our distinguished guests for gracing their presence and making the event a successful one.

For more details of the award, please visit: https://spgodrejenvironmentawards.com/
Eco Mapping for Mumbai: Understanding Mumbai’s Emotions Better

Dr Prasad Modak, Managing Director, Environmental Management Centre Pvt Ltd and Director, Ekonnex Knowledge Foundation

Emotional mapping, as understood in the field of participatory planning, is a method that allows citizens and municipalities to initiate a map-based dialogue concerning the current and future state of public space. Spatial and social media based tools help to involve citizens in community participation to provide a platform to express their emotions about the neighbourhood they live in. Recent paper on “Geospatial Technologies for Geoparticipation” by Jaroslav Burian, Jiří Pánek & Vit Pászto describes several such tools.

Group Work to Identify Issues and Initiatives on a Map
The concept of GeoParticipation is used to build emotional maps to understand citizen's views for better planning. The map of emotions generated using GeoParticipation tools can play a significant role in the development of the city, if the people who decide on the development are willing to listen! Emotion maps can lead to fairer planning processes and outcomes, hold public officials accountable based on the input from communities, and improve the quality of planning decisions. The results can be used as supporting documents for planning investment actions, creating transport solutions, or as additional information for the city police. With this very simple tool, one can move towards a more open and innovative governance. You may like to visit ‘Gaining From Peoples Emotions in City Planning: Emotional Maps As One of Civic Tech Tools- Participation Factory to know more.

**Issues (Red) and Initiatives (Green) Identified on the Map**

In 2011, I was involved in preparation of an EcoCity Action plan for Sangl-Miraj-Kupwad (SMK Corporation). I decided to use a Geospatial tool to map the emotions of the citizens, their pain points and the suggestions that could be built in the EcoCity action plan. Citizens of SMK used the application I developed using Google Maps. I think this idea was implemented perhaps for the first time and may even be in the world. I presented the process and application experience at SMK in the World Summit on Ecocities held in 2011 in Montreal in Canada.
The Eco-City Action Plan for SMK was prepared in consultation with stakeholders through a collaborative process. It evolved as a guiding pilot to establish a systematic and participatory process to develop an Action Plan that can be replicated in different cities.

A four-tiered participatory process was followed while preparing the Plan.

- Focused group discussions were conducted with professional experts and NGOs active in the region to identify issues and prioritize actions.
- A Core-Committee was formed to review the Plan at every stage and to function as the one-point contact for consultants and stakeholders.
- Citizen awareness and participation was facilitated through public meetings.
- Recommendations from each consultation were incorporated in the Action Plan, which were approved by the Standing Committee of elected representatives.
In addition, a web-site was created to help promote the Eco-City concept, to share outputs and stimulate networking. On this web-site, Eco-voices, a visualisation tool based on Google Map was created for citizens to post concerns or initiatives in their locality.

Community expectations and concerns identified through the participatory process were incorporated in the overall sustainability vision set for Eco-City Program.

Analysis of this citizen feedback led to the conceptualization and development of 49 actions and 52 awareness programs for the Action Plan. The Action Plan was approved by the Standing Committee and many of the suggested actions were implemented.

(Visit https://www.slideshare.net/prasadmodak/actioning-plans-for-ecocity to download the presentation and https://emcentre.com/preparation-of-eco-city-action-plan-for-sangli-miraj-kupwad/ to read the Executive Summary.)
There are a number of case studies available now that show experience of GeoParticipation tools. A recent study published by Jiří Pánek and Palacký of University Olomouc on city Třebíč in Czechoslovakia is interesting. A map of emotions produced showing Colourful pins with numbers to identify the authors and link them with respective complaints.

*Example of using colourful pins for creating an emotional map city for Třebíč in Czechoslovakia in 2016.*

I wish that organizations like Mumbai First take up creation of a map of emotions for Mumbai for a better connection between citizens and civic administration. Let’s remember that this tool is not the same as operating a complaints portal but perhaps a positive extension.
From Innovative Solutions to Impactful Initiatives