



# First & Foremost





## Preface

*Dear Readers,*

### Welcome to the August 2024 edition of the Mumbai First Newsletter!

As the mid-year mark approaches, we are delighted to bring you the latest issue of Our newsletter, First & Foremost, which is a testament to the collective efforts of the many individuals working tirelessly to make Mumbai a better place for all.

In this edition, we shine a spotlight on some of the key initiatives that have shaped the first half of the year. Our Mumbai Happenings sessions have continued to be a hub of lively discussions and thought-provoking exchanges. From exploring the city's rich cultural heritage to tackling pressing urban challenges, these sessions have brought together a diverse range of voices, sparking ideas and inspiring action.

The newly launched Mumbai Sustainability Forum has also been at the forefront of our efforts to promote green practices and sustainable development. Over the past few months, the Forum has launched several impactful initiatives, including workshops on adapting sustainable practices in housing societies. These efforts are paving the way for a greener, more sustainable Mumbai, and we are excited to share the progress made so far.

This issue also features insightful articles penned by experts, offering fresh perspectives on key urban challenges. We are always keen to hear your thoughts and ideas, as your feedback plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our city and guiding our efforts at Mumbai First.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We hope you find this edition engaging and inspiring.

**Mumbai First Team**



# Events

## Mumbai Happening Session 2 : 'RTS - Right to Public Service Act, 2015'

On June 13, 2024, Mumbai Happenings hosted an event on the Right to Public Service Act of 2015 and discussed advancements in digital governance using AI, chatbots, and blockchain to improve citizen engagement. They highlighted the role of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation in enhancing user experience through data monetization and the Aaple Sarkar platform's extensive service network. The event focused on the Act's transparency, accountability, and efficiency goals, emphasizing collaboration between the government, citizens, and organizations for effective service delivery.

### › Moderator

- **Mr. Sanjay Ubale-**  
Executive Board member, Mumbai first

### › Guest Speakers

- **Mr. Dilip Shinde-**  
I.A.S. (Retd.), the state commissioner for the revenue division of Pune's right to services.
- **Mr. Manu Kumar Srivastav-**  
I.A.S. (Retd) Chief Commissioner, Maharashtra State commissioner for Right to services.
- **Mr. Baldev Singh-**  
I.A.S. (Retd) State commissioner for Right to services, Konkan Revenue division.





## Events

### Financial Action Task Force Felicitation

The Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance held a dinner felicitation ceremony on the 29th of June 2024 in New Delhi to celebrate and recognize the contribution of the Indian teams in the evaluation by FATF.

Mutual Evaluation by FATF is a long and complicated process that requires an intense and coordinated effort to be put in by the assessed country. Most countries in the world have only partially successfully navigated the process. This is evident from the fact that 13 countries of G20 are in enhanced follow up including the USA, China, Germany, Canada, Japan, etc. and 2 countries, i.e. South Africa and Turkey are in the grey list. Only 4 countries, including the United Kingdom, France, etc. are in the regular follow-up. This demonstrates a significant challenge that the assessed country faces in the Mutual Evaluation process of FATF.

The Indian team comprising of Department of Revenue, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and other Ministries, Financial Sector Regulators, Law Enforcement Agencies, Judges, Prosecutors, and a significant number of public and private sector players jointly faced this assessment process in a very coordinated and sincere manner. Post the evaluation, Mumbai First's work was celebrated and recognized.

**'Mumbai First was selected for this evaluation as one of the top NPOs in Mumbai and post the assessment, Mumbai First's work was celebrated and recognized.'**





# Events

## Mumbai Happening Session 3: 'IPS to BNS - The New Legal Landscape'

At our 3rd Mumbai Happenings event on July 18, 2024, discussions focused on transitioning from the Indian Penal Code to the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS). The key reforms highlighted included the Witness Protection Scheme, Zero FIRs, and improved guidelines for evidence admissibility and exploring the amendments in the laws. The BNS aims to modernize India's criminal justice system with updates to electronic evidence handling, expanded crime definitions, and enhanced penalties, promoting fairness and accountability in legal proceedings.



### ➤ Presentation

- Adv, Anand Desai  
Managing director DSK legal and team

### ➤ Keynote Speaker

- Mr. Satish Mathur  
(IPS) Retd. Former DGP Maharashtra







## Events

### Technical Workshop with IGBC - Mumbai Sustainability Forum Meeting at CII Office, Worli

As a part of Mumbai First's newly formed 'Mumbai Sustainability Forum, we organized a workshop in collaboration with the Indian Green Building Council, to learn about the Green Residential Societies (GRS) guidelines and their role in making Mumbai a greener city. This technical workshop was held at CII Worli on August 6, 2024, and was a truly enriching experience.

It was collectively decided that the Mumbai Sustainability Forum shall reach out to various housing societies across Mumbai and ask them to join this movement to get 50 societies signed up with the IGBC by the end of this year.



## Events

### Mumbai Happenings Session 4: 'Living below the Sea Level- the Netherland Experience'

On August 21, 2024, the 4th Mumbai Happenings event featured Mr. Bart de Jong, Consul General of the Netherlands, along with other esteemed panelists like Mr. P. Velrasu and Mr. Aman Mittal, discussing how Mumbai could adopt the Netherlands' innovative flood management strategies. Drawing from the Dutch experience with programs like Room for the River and the Delta Works, the seminar emphasized a shift from traditional flood barriers to a "living with water" approach. This method turns water from a threat into an asset by integrating it into urban planning. Mumbai, facing similar flood risks, could benefit from these strategies by developing flood-resilient spaces, enhancing natural water bodies, and considering floating infrastructure for sustainable growth.







# Events







# Events

## Meeting with Ms. Sujata Saunik, Maharashtra's Chief Secretary

Mumbai First team met Ms. Sujata Saunik, and congratulated her as she became the first female Chief Secretary in the Government of Maharashtra. We discussed several crucial projects in areas such as public health and education, infrastructure and mobility, and climate change, amongst others. Areas of special collaboration with Mumbai First were also discussed in this meeting.

Ms. Saunik supported the initiatives of Mumbai First and extended her cooperation for the development of Mumbai City.





## Mumbai Speaks

### Can Mumbai achieve inclusivity in housing?

**Aneerudha Paul,**  
**Architect and Urban Designer**

The question is important because of the recent ruling of the Bombay High Court, which it questioned the present model of redeveloping slums through the SRA model, where many slum dwellers have become victims at the hands of private developers.

The judges, too, questioned the high-rise model of redevelopment of slums, and often the inadequate living environment they produced due to no maintenance and the lack of open space. This is true for many of the redeveloped buildings, such as the Lalubhai Compound in the M-East Ward, that have inadequate living conditions due to lack of light and ventilation and no maintenance of space between buildings. These have become spaces where waste gets collected over time. A study of such redeveloped buildings by Doctors for You and IIT Bombay called "Studying the association between structural factors and tuberculosis in the resettlement colonies in M-East ward, Mumbai" for the Environment Society of the MMRDA brings out the compromised health conditions that are observed in the lower floors of such redeveloped buildings.

The other aspect that authorities often miss is the fact that these informal settlements are housing and working environments that are very hard to replicate in high-rise living environments. While this is not to say that communities living in slums cannot live in high-rise apartments, some of the slum communities that have home-based works are not prepared to shift to such typologies. These typologies are intricately linked to mobility networks that are presently situated on the ground in our cities. Not enough investigation has been done to explore the possibility of high-rise buildings that integrate living and working environments. It might not be possible for the present standalone high-rise building models that developers and builders adopt to rehabilitate the inhabitants of slums. However, with the possibility of higher grades of horizontal and vertical mobility, it might be possible to evolve new typologies for the rehabilitation of informal settlements. But as of present the rehabilitation model of slums falls way short of creating living and working environments that can be called sustainable.

This should make the authorities consider other housing delivery models, modes of financing, partnerships, and typological possibilities required to provide decent housing for nearly half the population living in informal settlements. One of the models attempted in the past to provide inclusive housing was the site and service schemes that the government attempted in the 1980s-90's with assistance from the



World Bank. While such projects were deemed a failure, immediately after their completion, due to which they were abandoned, a recent study by the World Bank Study called “Success when we deemed it a failure?”

Revisiting sites and services projects in Mumbai and Chennai 20 years later” shows that these schemes have provided vibrant living environments that can support a mix of work and living environments. While these schemes might not be viable within the city limits of Mumbai, due to high land cost, the peripheries of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region can experiment with such housing delivery mechanisms. Very similar to site and service schemes, are the plotting of agricultural land, that is happening informally in the peripheries of our cities. Rather than deeming them as negative, are there lessons to learn from them? Can these be formally replicated by the government so that all the stakeholders involved can benefit? Can such schemes provide affordable housing and working environments for the migrant population that are integral to the city's economy?

The other possibility that exists is to explore the possibility of the in situ upgradation of informal settlements, especially in cases where the lands are tenable. While such schemes are being attempted in Tier 2 Indian cities in the state of Orissa these can be attempted in the peripheries of our metropolitan region.



This short post is more of a provocation that can initiate a discussion on the varied possibilities that can be possible to provide a decent living and working environment to the other half of the population that live in our cities but for whom living might not necessarily mean living in standalone apartment buildings.







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To make the city a better place  
to live, work and invest in

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