



**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report of Maritime Mumbai Museum Society**  
**for the Financial Year 2019-20**

## **Origins**

Mumbaikars have had a long-standing desire to showcase their association with the sea and their maritime heritage by establishing a Museum in their city. The first effort was by the Sir Mohamed Yusuf Seamen Welfare Trust in 1972 which set up TS Rehman at Nhava. The origin of this goes back to 1883 when the family bought a plot of land on Nhava Island which is now a marine academy. The Mumbai Port Trust has diligently collected artefacts since its inception in 1873. The Indian Navy collected a number of exhibits and created a Naval Museum in 1987 at Middle Ground Island in Mumbai harbour. Though this was an idyllic location, the general public did not take to it, and the artefacts were shifted to the Maritime Wing of the then Prince of Wales Museum, now the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS). Some artefacts were moved to the National Museum at New Delhi. Two outdoor maritime exhibitions were set up by the Indian Navy in 2001 and 2011-12, in Anushakti Bhavan at Old Bombay Yacht Club and the CSMVS respectively. The latter was for the International Fleet Review. The iconic Aircraft Carrier VIKRANT after decommissioning in 1999 was converted into a museum and berthed inside the Naval Dockyard close to the Tiger Gate in Ballard Estate. This location proved very popular with the public, but after 12 years of wrangling about where to berth VIKRANT permanently, the vessel was scrapped in 2014 amid much lamentation. The Vasant J Sheth foundation set up a maritime museum at the World Trade Centre for over 7 years. The VJS Foundation obtained approval in principle from the Mumbai Port Trust in 2003 for a Maritime Resource centre to be housed in the Hydraulic Engine House, near Yellow Gate of erstwhile Alexandra Dock, now Indira Dock. This initiative did not go forward. The Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Shipping Corporation of India, The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, the Coast Guard and many other organisations have artefacts worth displaying but have no home. The mechanical engineering exhibition set up by the Mumbai Port Trust is also facing closure for want of a suitable building.

In 2014, the NGO APLI Mumbai included a Maritime Museum in the citizens plan for the regeneration of Port lands not required for cargo operations. MbPT prepared a plan in 2016 for making the Ghadiyal Ghar into a Museum. However, it was clear even then, that direct public access to that building was not available due its being inside the Customs bond zone.

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The IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and APLI Mumbai included a proposal for a Maritime Museum in their Port Lands Conference in Apr 2018. This included presentations by leading architect Dr. Brinda Somaya and veteran maritime historian Cdr. Mohan Narayan (Retd.) This too came to naught. The publicity in December 2018 for a statement by the visiting History Professor Ray, from Delhi, a speaker at the VJS Foundation Memorial Lecture, asking publicly why Mumbai did not have a maritime museum, was the trigger for the CEO of the Indian National Shipowners Association to pose a question to APLI Mumbai, Why Not?

### First Steps

The first meeting of 20 enthusiasts interested in a Maritime Museum for Mumbai was hosted by Mr. Anil Devli, CEO of INSA on 01 Feb 2019 and included Vice Admiral AR Karve (Retd.) who agreed to chair the meeting; Mrs. Asha Sheth, Managing Trustee of the VJS Foundation; Admiral VS Shekhawat (Retd.) former Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral IC Rao (Retd.), President APLI Mumbai; Ms. Sifra Lentin, Historian; Ms. Manjeet Kripalani, Founder of think tank Gateway House; Cdr Mohan Narayan (Retd.), former long-time curator of the Maritime History Society; Mr. Aadil Desai of the Bombay Local History Society; Mr. Rashid Poonawala, a Freemason; Mr. Vishal Shah, educationist, Ms. Anita Yewale, graphic designer, and Cdr KK Sharma (Retd.), Mr. Ashwin Tahiliani, Mr. Ankur Jain, Mr. Rohit Lahoti, Ms. Deepa Nandi, Ms. Nida Chikte, Mr. Ratandeep Vij, and Mr. Ebrahim Mamoowala.

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MUSEUM SOCIETY



#### VISION STATEMENT

**Our Vision:** To establish the Maritime Mumbai Museum as a beautiful, modern, dynamic, inclusive, equitable, self sustaining museum of which Mumbai will be proud.

**Our Mission:** To work constructively with all stakeholders to define appropriate policies and executive decisions which ensure that the Maritime Mumbai Museum attains a pre-eminent position in the cultural scene in Mumbai and as a leading custodian of maritime heritage world wide.

We invite you to be a part of a dream team that will make a real difference in the maritime world of Mumbai.

Write to [maritimemumbaimuseum@gmail.com](mailto:maritimemumbaimuseum@gmail.com)

c/o Indian National Shipowners' Association, 22, Maker Tower F, Mumbai 400005

### MMMS Vision Statement

The meeting of 01 Feb 2019 decided to form a Society and Trust which could bid for a building on lease from the Mumbai Port Trust to set up a proper Maritime Museum. The meeting also decided to set up committees for exhibits, architecture, design, Finance, etc. The Memorandum of Association and Rules of the Society were framed

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and are now available on our web site [www.mmms.in](http://www.mmms.in). An application signed by 10 founding members of the Society and Trust, was submitted to the Charities Commissioner. They were Vice Admiral AR Karve (Retd.), Ms. Deepa Nandi, Mr. Chetan Shah, Mr. Aadil Desai, Mr. Pradip Shah, Mr. Asif Lampwala, Ms. Sifra Lentin, Ms Anita Yewale and Mr. Anil Devli. Ms Asha Sheth is a founding trustee in the application for formation of the Trust.

The current rules do not allow the Trust name to commence with the name of a metropolitan city and hence it was called Maritime Mumbai Museum Society. The application was approved, and the Society was registered on 06 Sep 2019 with the Registration No. 1644/2019 under the Societies Registration Act 1880. It was informed that registration as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act 1950 would follow in 8 months. Our advocate was Ms. Bhakti Mangle, at a remuneration of Rs. 6000.

Being a registered Society gives MMMS the legal standing to enter into Contracts, submit bids and act in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Society at present, and of the Trust when its approval is received. The registered office is c/o INSA, 202, Maker Tower F, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai, 400005. Our email id is [maritimemumbaimuseum@gmail.com](mailto:maritimemumbaimuseum@gmail.com). We uploaded content on our web site [www.mmms.in](http://www.mmms.in) on 15 Mar 2020 with the assistance of M/s Prajakta Software at a cost of Rs. 26,840. Records, and a number of documents and photographs have been uploaded. Members are invited to provide more interesting content. It has the potential for further development as an interactive site.

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नॉदणी प्रमाणपत्र  
संस्था नॉदणी अधिनियम, १८६०

(१८६० चा अधिनियम २३)  
महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई  
२०१९ जी.बी.पी.एस.डी नॉदणी क्रमांक 1644/2019

“MARITIME MUMBAI  
MUSEUM SOCIETY”

खालील तारखेस संस्था नॉदणी अधिनियम, १८६० (सं. १८६० चा अधिनियम २३) अन्वये योग्यरीत्या नॉदणी करण्यात आली.  
तारखेस 06 SEP 2019 रोजी माझ्या सहीनेरी दिले.

ASSTANT REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES  
Greater Bombay Region

सहायक नॉदणी अधिकारी, मुंबई

**MMMS Registration Certificate**



### **Interaction with Mumbai Port Trust**

Meetings with the Chairman Mumbai Port Trust in April 2019 revealed a possible opportunity for us to bid for a lease, for setting up a mini museum at the Heritage Tower at the entrance to Prince's Dock, now called the Domestic Cruise Terminal Tower. The Tower is 14m high and 5m in diameter. We considered this opportunity valuable, for MMMS to establish our credibility, create footfalls through a series of events, in a calendar inviting citizenry and especially students, to interactive programmes which would also attract donors for the main museum project. Our Society formed a team consisting of Ms. Sifra Lentin, Ms. Anita Yewale, Ms. Deepa Nandi, advised by Mrs. Asha Sheth, which prepared a concept design report. The concept included depiction of the history of Mumbai Port on the Ground Floor, a replica of a navigation bridge on the first floor, a mock-up of living quarters in a ship of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and a viewing gallery with telescopes on the terrace. The concept was greatly appreciated by the Port Trust and hence 2 members, Mr. Jiten Desai and Ms. Neha Parulekar prepared drawings and a cost estimate of Rs.112 Lakhs, for executing the project, which were presented to MbPT in Dec 2019. These concepts became the basis for Mumbai Port Trust preparing the terms and conditions for an open competitive tender. Issue of the tender is awaited, and some further delay is expected due to the current pandemic.

### **INS Viraat**

Our Society also engaged with two entrepreneurs who wished to convert the Aircraft Carrier Viraat into a hospitality centre and a maritime museum. Despite our Society promoting strong recommendations from all concerned authorities, including the Navy, Mumbai Port Trust and the Government of Maharashtra, the attempts at framing a business proposition and a financial model were unsuccessful, and the ship is due to be towed away for scrapping at end of Sep 2020.

### **Building for a Maritime Museum**

MMMS has continued to press MbPT for a permanent building inside the port area. A 1 ha plot has been included at Hay Bunder in the Draft Planning Proposal submitted by MbPT in its role as the newly appointed 'Special Planning Authority' under the Maharashtra Regional Town Planning Act (a suggestion initiated by APLI Mumbai in 2014).

In Jan 2020, MbPT requested MMMS to consider the Merewether Dock Building for conversion to a Maritime Museum. This is a two storeyed RCC structure 24m x 12m built in 1998 to house an office and store room. It is accessible to the public now and has a large car park adjacent to it and some open space around it for open air exhibits.



## MARITIME MUMBAI MUSEUM SOCIETY

However, many members of MMMS continue to harbour the aspiration that the Ghadiyal Ghar, a heritage structure built in 1888, would be the ideal building for a Maritime Museum. This may be ambitious, but time will tell which option will fructify, with persistence and determination of MMMS.



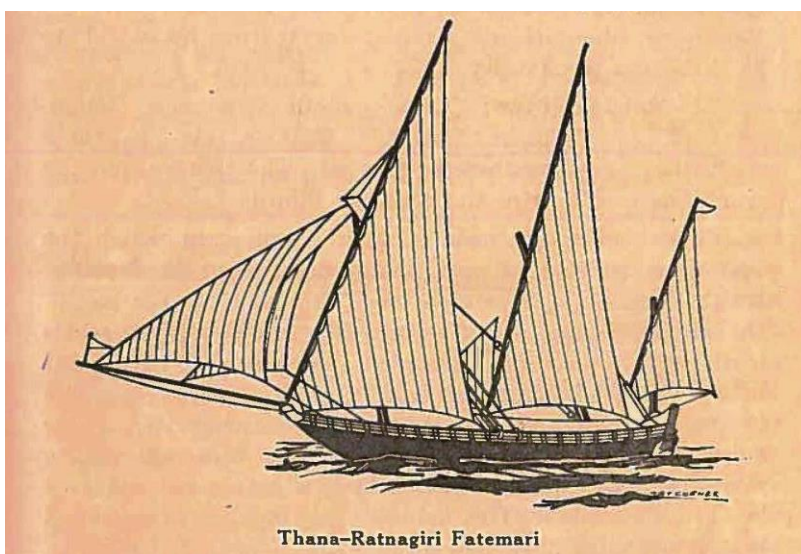
**Merewether Dock Building**

### **Otis College of Art & Design**

In Feb 2020, Architecture Prof. Geeta Mehta of Columbia University suggested that she could include the 3 buildings under consideration by MMMS, in the Master Class design workshop she was conducting with Architect Linda Pollari of the Otis College of Art & Design at Los Angeles. This opportunity was utilised, and the Society has received the invaluable design ideas created by the 8 participants in the 5-day workshop. The buildings included were the Ghadiyal Ghar, Merewether Dock Building and the DCT Tower.

### **Membership Activities**

All these activities have been made possible by the constancy of the support we have received from our members and well-wishers. In particular advice on the way ahead from Mr. Anupam Sah, curator of the CSMVS has been invaluable. We thank Mrs. Asha Sheth for arranging informal soirees and making office space available for meetings. The Society is grateful to Mr. Anil Devli for providing a conference room at the INSA premises and sanctioning our registered address. Ms Anita Yewale has designed our most attractive logo. Our grateful thanks Mr. Jiten Desai and Ms Neha Parulekar of Itihaas for the design and cost estimate of the Tower Museum.



### Inspiration for the MMMS logo

#### Site Visits

We have conducted the following visits to enable our members to familiarise themselves with the opportunities available to progress our aims and objectives.

Ghadiyal Ghar	24 Feb 2019
Tower Museum	13 Mar 2019 and 29 Mar 2019
MbPT Mechanical Engineering Museum	16 Mar 2019
Hydraulic Engine House	22 Apr 2019 and 13 Jul 2019
Ballard Bunder	29 Mar 2019
INS Viraat	14 Jul 2019 and 8 Oct 2019
Merewether Dock Building	20 Dec 2019
Dharohar, Mazagon Dock Museum	14 Aug 2020



**Site visit to Ghadiyal Ghar**



**Site visit to Viraat**



**Site visit to Hydraulic Engine House**

### **Acknowledgements**

The strength of our Society is our group of members, associates and supporters and generous donors. As on date of issue of the Notice for the AGM we had 45 members who have paid subscription of Rs 1000 for the FY 2020-2021. We are privileged to have as our members two former Chiefs of Naval Staff, Admiral L Ramdas (Retd.) and Admiral VS Shekhawat (Retd.). Our special thanks to Mr. Shashi Pahwa a philanthropist from Delhi who donated Rs 2,00,000 to our Society. We wish to thank



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APLI Mumbai for donation of Rs. 3484. We have received donations of Rs. 1,25,500 from 16 generous donors varying from Rs 20,000 to Rs 1,500 from our members.

The Accounts of the Society have been circulated with the Notice for the Annual General Meeting. We thank our Hon Treasurer Mr. Chetan Shah for his management of our finances. The surplus for the year ended 31 March 20 was Rs. 3,54,995/-.

The term of the founding members of the Managing Committee ends at the end of the Annual General Body Meeting scheduled on 03 Oct 2020, when the newly elected body will assume their duties. I wish them good fortune and success in their endeavours.

I recommend to you this Annual Report 2019-2020 and the Statement of Accounts for adoption by the General Body.

Sd/-

Vice Admiral AR Karve (Retd.)  
President  
Maritime Mumbai Museum Society

Place: Mumbai

Date: 09 Sep 2020