



**3rd Annual Report
Maritime Mumbai Museum Society
Financial Year 2021-2022**

Background

Maritime Mumbai Museum Society was registered on 06 Sep 2019. The Society was registered as a Trust on 02 Mar 2021. The second Annual Report was presented at the AGM held on 09 Oct 2021 and may be taken as read.

Activities

Online Talks

The online talks were welcomed by our members and attracted interest from citizens of Mumbai. The Museum Society of Mumbai (MSM), Bombay Local History Society (BLHS) and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangralaya (CSMVS) partnered our Society in the conduct of the talks and the mutual benefit has been highly appreciated. The talks required registration but were free to all participants. The participation varied from about 20 to 80 including members of MMMS, members of MSM and non-members across the country including Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. All talks were followed by lively Q&A sessions which encouraged interactive participation by members and enhanced their experience.

The following talks were held during the year.

Sr. No.	Talk No.	Conducted on - Date	Name of the Talk	Resource person
1	13	04.04.2021	The Lion & The Loyalty	R.Venkatesh
2	14	10.04.2021	Maratha Aarmar	Pratish Khedekar
3	15	24.04.2021	Little Marine Ambassadors	Raamesh Raghavan
4	16	22.05.2021	Mangroves of Mumbai	Dr Sheetal Pachpande
5	17	12.06.2021	The Last Fisherman of Bombay	Ganesh Nakhwa
6	18	19.06.2021	The Salt Saga of Bombay	Neeta Sanghi



7	19	17.07.2021	Mumbai, Arabs & Arabian Sea	Dr Suraj Pandit
8	20	24.07.2021	Geomorphology of Mumbai	Dr Charlotte Braganza
9	21	07.08.2021	Deco by the sea	Atul Kumar
10	22	28.08.2021	Shipping Industry & Mumbai	Capt. Kapildev Bahl
11	23	04.09.2021	The Untired Defenders	Dr. Mayur Thakare
12	24	25.09.2021	Cannons of Mumbai	Dr. Tejas Garge
13	25	20.11.2021	Maritime Museums	R. Venkatesh

Curated Walks

The following curated walks were organised and well attended by members. To ensure social distancing numbers were generally restricted to groups of 15.

Sr. No.	Walk No.	Conducted on - Date	Name of the Walk	Curator of the walk
1	5	21.08.2021	Koliwada Kulture (Virtual)	Anita Yewale
2	6	14.11.2021	Vasaicha Killa	Megha Kamothi & Pascal Lopes
3	7	21.11.2021	Sopara Tales	Hallu Hallu
4	8	12.12.2021	Versova to Ambu	Hallu Hallu
5	9	20.03.2022	Deco by the sea	Art Deco Mumbai Trust



Site Visits

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

Merewether Dry Dock Building:

- a) Civil Engineer Mr. Brijesh Shrivasta.
- b) Dr. P. Godrej, Chairperson MSM, Mr Anupam Sah, CSMVS.
- c) Architects Abhishek Ray and Kamalika Bose.





Naval Dockyard Heritage Hall

Members visited the Heritage Hall at Naval Dockyard on 19 Dec 2021.



Merewether Dry Dock Building as a Maritime Museum

Members will recall that the estimated cost of the Maritime Museum to be established in the Merewether Dry Dock Building is Rs 6.2 Cr. We are fortunate that M/s JM Baxi, Mr Ashok Chowgule, Mr C Guzder, Dr P Godrej, VJS Foundation and Mrs Asha Sheth have pledged in total Rs 626.5 lakhs in support of our EOI document. It was reported earlier that the MMMS EOI document was submitted on 11 Aug 2021. On 27 Sep 2021, MMMS was invited to propose the draft text of an MOU between MbPT and MMMS to establish the Maritime Museum at Merewether Dry Dock Building. The invitation would obviate the necessity for MbPT to call for public tenders which is a long and tedious process. MMMS formed a team consisting of VADM IC Rao (Retd), Cdr Ninad Phatarphekar (Retd.), Ms Anita Yewale and Ms Gool Kotwal. Legal Adviser. The team was joined by Cdr. S Dhulekar on behalf of the principal donor M/s JM Baxi. During three meetings. It was felt that an MOU is not necessarily enforceable in the Courts, Hence we submitted a draft Concession Agreement, later renamed as the Draft Licence Agreement. Several meetings were held first with a committee of Heads of Depts of MbPT, and then on 08 Dec 2021 and 18 Dec 2021 with the Chairman MbPT. The refrain throughout the series of discussions was the requirement by MbPT of removing all commercial activities and on the other hand, MMMS requirement to conduct exhibitions and sponsorship rights which would be necessary to make the museum self-sustaining. On 27 Jan 2022 we were informed by email as follows "This proposal has been reviewed and it has been decided to invite tenders for setting up of the Maritime Museum. As such MMMS may participate in the tending process as



and when the notice inviting tenders is published by MbPT for setting up of the Museum.”

MMMS welcomed the move, despite its implication that the museum cannot now be established in time for the 150th anniversary of the Establishment of Mumbai Port Trust on 26 Jun 2023. Enquiries with MbPT have not elicited any further information on the progress of the terms and conditions in the tender or the tender process.

Ghadiyal Ghar as a Maritime Museum.

Managing Committee has felt that the delay in finalizing an agreement to establish a Maritime Museum in Merewether Dry Dock Building again opens the opportunity to press for the Ghadiyal Ghar to be allocated as the maritime museum in lieu. The proposal gathers greater weight as the Ghadiyal Ghar is indeed an iconic building designated as a heritage structure. The volume of dry cargo at Indira Dock does not justify the existing road widths upto Orange Gate. If the width of the Mesant Road between Indira Dock and Orange Gate can be reduced, Ghadiyal Ghar can be provided with road access from P D'mello Road. Accordingly, it is proposed to submit a Project Report to the Chairman MbPT with copies to Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Shipping.

As was stated in the Annual Reports of 2019-20 and 2020-21, MMMS continues to harbour the aspiration that the Ghadiyal Ghar, a heritage structure built in 1890, would be the ideal building for a maritime museum. This may still be ambitious, but time will tell how these aspirations will fructify, with persistence and determination of MMMS.

Managing Committee

The President VADM AR Karve (Retd.) has been appointed to the prestigious post of Member, Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench. During his tenure, the regulations require that he may not hold any elected post. Hence VADM Karve (Retd.) has resigned from the post of President of MMMS. Mr Aadil Desai will perform the duties of Acting President.

The Managing Committee Comprises of the following office bearers.

- a. Mr. Aadil Desai, Officiating President.
- b. Mr. Chetan Shah, Treasurer
- c. Mr. Pradip Shah
- d. Ms. Anita Yewale
- e. Mr. Asif Lampwala
- f. Cdr. Ninad Phatarphekar (Retd.), Member Secretary
- g. Mr. Ankur Jain.

Registration of the MMMS as a Trust

Our application to be registered as a Trust under the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act was approved on 02 Mar 2021 under the registration no. F-76261(M). This has been



issued under the name 'Maritime Mumbai Museum Trust'. Action to change the name of the Trust to 'Maritime Mumbai Museum Society' has been filed with the Asst.Charities Commissioner, by our Advocate Ms. Bhakti Mangle.

Membership Activities.

The membership drive for the fresh subscriptions for the year 2021-22 was launched on 01 Mar 2021. The membership strength now stands at 63.

Members have also contributed generously towards donations as follows:

Sl.	Name	Amount (Rs.)
a.	Ms. Manjeet Kripalani	5,00,000
b.	Mr. Cyrus Guzder	25,000

All the activities during the year have been made possible by the constancy of the support we have received from our members and well-wishers

Media Mentions.

The Society received a number of media mentions of its various activities in various publications. Some of them are placed at Appendix. We acknowledge the efforts of Cdr Ninad Phatarphekar (Retd.), Mr Aadil Desai and Ms Anita Yewale in promoting our media presence strongly.

Acknowledgements

The strength of our Society is our group of members, associates and supporters and generous donors. The Accounts of the Society will be circulated with the Notice for the Annual General Meeting. We thank our Hon Treasurer Mr Chetan Shah for his management of our finances. The balance available as on 31 March 22 was

Rs.7, 93,935.00 (Rupees Seven Lakhs, Ninety Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Five only).



I commend to you this Annual Report 2021-2022 and the Statement of Accounts for adoption by the General Body.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Phatarphekar', is set against a light pink rectangular background.

Commander N Phatarphekar (Retd.)
Member Secretary
Maritime Mumbai Museum Society

Mumbai

31 Mar 2022



MMMS Media Mentions

Women in Maritime

Today is also the first International Day for Women in Maritime. On this occasion, Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMMS) will host an online talk with a panel of distinguished women from the industry including Captain Suneha Gadpande, the first woman to captain an all-woman crew on India's cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna; Sonali Banerjee, the first Indian woman marine engineer; and Sanjam Gupta, director of Sitara Shipping and founder, Maritime SheEO. "These women broke gender stereotypes to achieve success and paved the way for young Indian women to pursue a career in the Maritime sector," shares Anita Yewale, head of outreach programme, MMMS.



Anita Yewale



Sanjam Gupta

SheEO. "These women broke gender stereotypes to achieve success and paved the way for young Indian women to pursue a career in the Maritime sector," shares Anita Yewale, head of outreach programme, MMMS.

ON May 19, 5.30 pm **LOG ON TO**
@maritimemms on Instagram



(From left) Sonali Banerjee and Capt Suneha Gadpande



Chaul chalo

An online talk takes you on a virtual trip to Chaul to explore the rich socio-economic history of a tourist destination that you've probably visited but didn't know much about

TANISHKA D'LYMA
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In recalling important trading ports, how often is it that Chaul makes it to the list? About 2,500 years ago before the formation of Bombay, a town called Chaul, all of 10 sq km, was a major international trading port, harbor and centre of maritime activity. Located approximately 125 km away from the city in Alibaug, or 70 km if you take the ferry, Chaul is now a popular tourist destination. Using this as an opportunity, Prashant Ghurat, archaeologist and researcher, aims to ensure visitors are cognizant of the history of the ancient port. Ghurat will be hosted by Maritime Mumbai Museum Society to deliver an online talk, titled *Chronicles of Chaul*, that will take listeners through the timeline of the port when it was operational between the third century BC and 17th century CE.

Mumbai-based Ghurat will make virtual halls at various monuments and heritage points to map its history as it passed through the hands of different dynasties and cultural influences facilitated by international trade. He tells us that all of these artefacts and monuments depict how well-connected Chaul was with international trading ports and other countries such as China, Africa and the Middle East. The 38-year-old shares that even today, while conducting heritage walks at Chaul, he finds pieces of Chinese blue and white pottery. "These findings analyse the migration and assimilation of communities from various regions to Chaul, which has shaped the socio-cultural evolution that probably acted as the base of the cosmopolitan community in Mumbai." What catches one eye as the



Nizamshahi Mosque, (top) Shivajirao Fort in Chaul. **PHOTOS COURTESY/PRADESHANT GHURAT**



places of worship; Ghurat points out through pictures of a mosque, synagogue and temple, the religious history of Chaul which includes Buddhism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. He adds, "There are written references of Chaul right from the first century CE by traders and travellers. Take for instance an inscription at Kandhari Caves that mentions donations made by a goldsmith from Chaul. Imagine how well-connected and wealthy Chaul was to have donated to a Buddhist monastery some 150 km away; think about the means of travel 2,500 years ago, too."



Prashant Ghurat. **PHOTO COURTESY/ DASHAN NAR**

Speaking about Chaul as a tourist spot, Ghurat expresses that it's always important to move from negligence to appreciation of a place as its visitor. Head of the outreach programme, Anita Yewale, notes, "Getting the newer generation to speak about it is great because they have a new way of looking at and questioning history, and establishing new connections between the past and the present."

FREE **ON** June 25, 4.30 pm onwards **LOG ON TO** **#eventinmms** on Instagram to register