



6 Aug 2023

4th Annual Report
of Maritime Mumbai Museum Society
Financial Year 2022-2023

Background

Maritime Mumbai Museum Society was registered on 06 Sep 2019. The Society was registered as a Trust on 2 Mar 2020. The third Annual Report was presented at the AGM held on 30 Jul 2022 and may be taken as read.

Activities

In Aug 2021, our Society submitted an Expression of Interest at the invitation of Mumbai Port Trust to convert the Merewether Dry Dock Building into a maritime museum. The discussions continued through 2021 and early 2022 regarding the terms and conditions of an Agreement to be signed between MMMS and MbPT for the establishment and subsequent operation and maintenance of the proposed museum. As a measure of abundant caution, MMMS also undertook a structural audit of the building which showed that the building was suitable for the purpose. Regrettably despite the best efforts by both parties, it was not possible to arrive at a mutually acceptable text of the Agreement. MbPT, therefore decided to invite open tenders for the project. However, there has been no progress to date. To overcome this impasse, MMMS sought an audience with Mr Sonowal, the Hon'ble Minister for Shipping. On 14 May 2022 during the Hon'ble Minister's visit to Mumbai, MMMS submitted a plea for the lease of Traffic House/Clock Tower Building/ Ghadiyal Ghar by Mumbai Port Authority, to be converted into a maritime museum. MMMS requested the Hon'ble Minister to approve the lease of the vacant Traffic House/Clock Tower/ Ghadiyal Ghar building to MMMS for establishing a maritime museum for Mumbai. On further enquiry with the Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust, we received an email on 25 May 2022 from MbPT that Ghadiyal Ghar would not be available for conversion into a museum.

In pursuit of our aim to find a suitable permanent home for Mumbai's Maritime Museum, we explored the availability of locations in South Mumbai including warehouses or large buildings. On 27 May 2022, a team from MMMS visited Oyster Rock and Middle Ground Islands. It was found that Oyster Rock has four large rooms



suitable as exhibition spaces. The visit was followed up by a presentation to Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command proposing that Oyster Rock be converted into a maritime museum. After further deliberations, MMMS received a Letter of Intent from the Maritime History Society which is an organization sponsored by the Western Naval Command *“to formally convey the intention of the Maritime History Society (MHS) to collaborate with the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMMS) for establishing a Maritime Museum at Oyster Rock, Mumbai”*.

The LOI required MMMS to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Managing Committee considered several architect groups and awarded the task to M/s Matrika Design Collaborative, Principal Architect Mr Abhishekh Ray at a fee of Rs 1,41,600 (including GST).

The main features of the DPR are annexed to these minutes. Oyster Rock will provide 2730 sq mtrs of Indoor exhibition space and 7850 sq mtrs outdoor exhibition space. A brief outline of the cost of setting up the museum, sharing of ticketing revenue, sponsorship proposals, recurring expenditure, and funding requirements were presented to the Indian Navy.

The curatorial aspects and management of the museum at an estimated initial cost of Rs revised. This includes provision of two emergency generators and STP during the initial phase.

MMMS proposed that the infrastructural improvements required should be the responsibility of the Navy including provision of power, water, sewerage and landing facilities. The boat basin would require some maintenance dredging to enable a landing pontoon to be positioned and for passenger boats of capacity of 100 passengers to ply safely from the Gateway of India to Oyster Rock. The expenditure on infrastructure to be incurred by the Navy is estimated presently at approximately Rs 11 Cr.

In January, MMMS approached the office of the Dy Chief Minister to seek the support of the Government of Maharashtra for the project. Our efforts resulted in a letter from Shri Devendra Fadnavis to the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 1 February 2023. The letter was referred by RM's Office to NHQ and in turn to HQ Western Naval Command. The Navy has examined various aspects and sent a favourable Note to the Ministry of Defence. It is understood that the matter is being considered by the Head of the Defence Estates organization. We expect a favourable reply from RM to DCM shortly.



The next step will be for MMMS to sign an agreement with the navy to implement the project.

MMMS received an enquiry from the Director General Publications of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to write a book on Important Ports and Docks of Mumbai and Surrounding Districts. After due consultations, the Managing Committee decided to accept the offer. A book has been compiled by two editors, Dr Shefali Shah and Ms Sunita Nair, assisted by our President Capt Bahl. Vice President Ms Anita Yewale and member VADM IC Rao. The book is Titled “Gateways to the Sea – A History of Important Ports and Docks of Mumbai and its Surrounding Districts “. The book will have an introduction to MMMS by our President Capt Kapildev Bahl, Master Mariner; a Foreword by eminent historian Dr Lakshmi Subramanian; an Introduction by the Editors, Dr Shefali Shah and Ms Sunita Nair; 19 Articles on the History of Ports and Docks of Mumbai and Surrounding Districts of Palghar, Thane, and Alibaug. The 19 articles authors include 9 holding PhD Degrees and teaching faculty of Universities in Maharashtra, an epigraphist, an archaeologist, a lawyer, a research scholar, a scientist, a member of the Asiatic Society and 3 former Naval Officers associated with Docks. The manuscript has been submitted to the Director General Publications on 29 May 2022 for printing and publishing. It is hoped that the publication will bring credit to the role of Maritime Mumbai Museum Society for compiling a classic book recording the history of Ports and Docksof Mumbai and Surrounding Districts from Sopara to Janjira which were also centres of power, fame, culture, commerce, and prosperity once upon a time.

In 2022, the Administration of the Union Territory of Diu invited our Hon Secy Cdr N Phatarphekar to advise on ways and means to showcase Museum Ship Khukri built in Mazagon Dock which was decommissioned and handed over to Diu to establish as a museum. MMMS engaged Architect Ms Kamalika Bose of Heritage Synergies to prepare a Detailed Project Report. The report has been accepted and MMMS has been given the Go Ahead to execute the project with CSR funds provided by M/s Mazagon Dock Ltd. An Agreement with M/s MDL is being considered. Further to this, in response to a request from the Collector of Diu, expressing concern regarding the securing arrangements of Khukri, Kapildev Bahl, carried an inspection and submitted his recommendations

The Strength of our Society are the members who bring their talents, expertise, experience and energies to fulfil the aims and objectives of our Society. The strength of members for the year 2022-23 was 71. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance



of Advocate Ms Bhakti Mangle who has liaised with the Asst Charities Commissioner, Maharashtra to obtain approvals of the Change Reports and Statements of Accounts.

Vice Admiral Rao and Ms Anita Yewale organized a press conference, followed by a momentous event at the Grand Hotel, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the sinking of SS Tilawa. A number of other events (walks & talks) were also organized by MMMS as a part of its outreach activities such as an exhibition of 'Bombay That Was Mumbai That Is' was organized at the Royal Bombay seamen's Club by Mrinal Kapadia. MMMS also organized visits to the Naval Dock Yard, a visit to the office of Mr Reshamwala to see his private collection of marine artefacts, a full day tour to Elephanta, walks to Sewri and Mahim fort and some very interesting talks by renowned International Historians Dr Faisal Devji & Omar Khan.

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. As a result of his efforts, MMMS is a registered Public Society & Trust with CSR 1 registration (issued by MCA) and also enjoys Sec. 12 AB & Sec. 80 G exemption under IT Act, 1961. **Donations to the MMMS will qualify as CSR expenditure under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013.**

The balance available as on 31 March 23 was Rs . This includes Rs 10 lakhs donated by Mr Ashok Chowgule held in fixed Deposit for the establishment of a maritime museum at Oyster Rock.

I commend to you this Annual Report 2022-2023 and the Statement of Accounts for adoption by the General Body.

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