

ON THE WATERFRONT

A CASE OF MUMBAI



**“What attracts people most, in sum, are other people.”
-William Whyte**































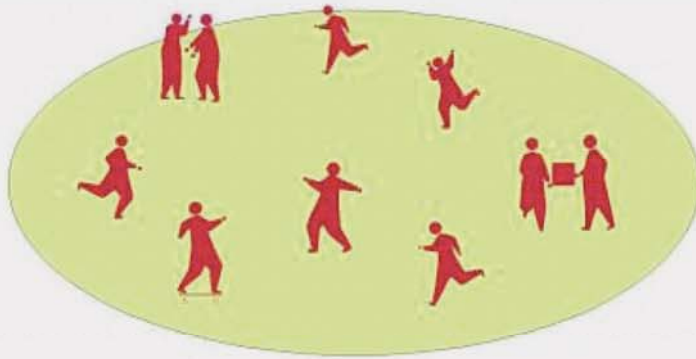
**AN AREA OF 437 SQ KM
HOME TO APPROX. 15 MILLION PEOPLE**



INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTRE BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX



HOUSES OF APPROX. 55% MUMBAIKARS



LONDON: 7.2 A/1000 PEOPLE



NEW YORK: 6 A/1000 PEOPLE



CHICAGO: 4 A/1000 PEOPLE



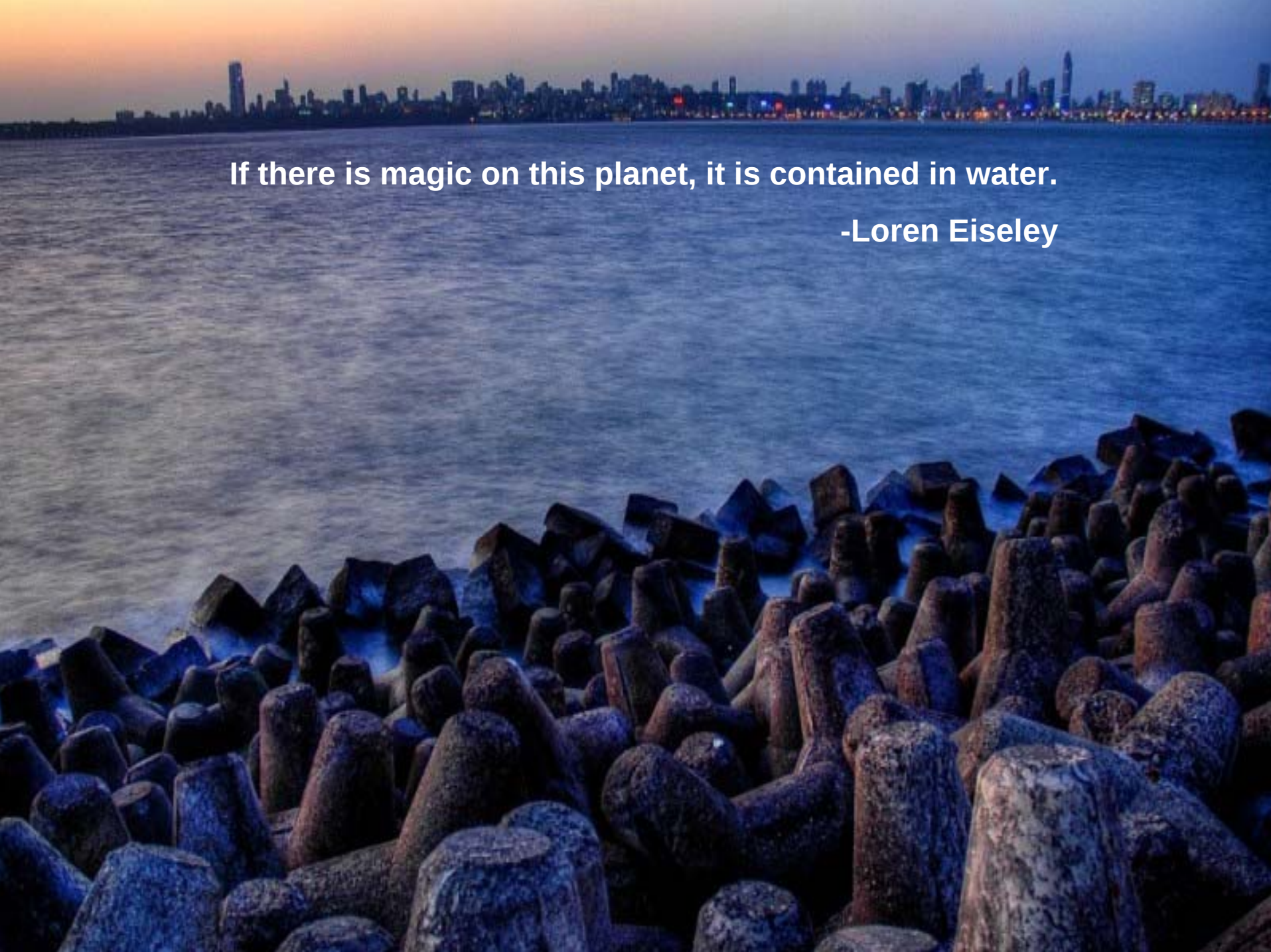
TOKYO: 0.9 A/1000 PEOPLE



MUMBAI: 0.25 A/1000 PEOPLE



COMPARISON OF AVAILABILITY OF OPEN SPACES



If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

-Loren Eiseley





Mumbai



44 KMS OF WESTERN SHORELINE

14 KMS OF EASTERN COASTLINE



RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE







ABUSE OF PUBLIC SPACE - A FORT ON THE WATERFRONT



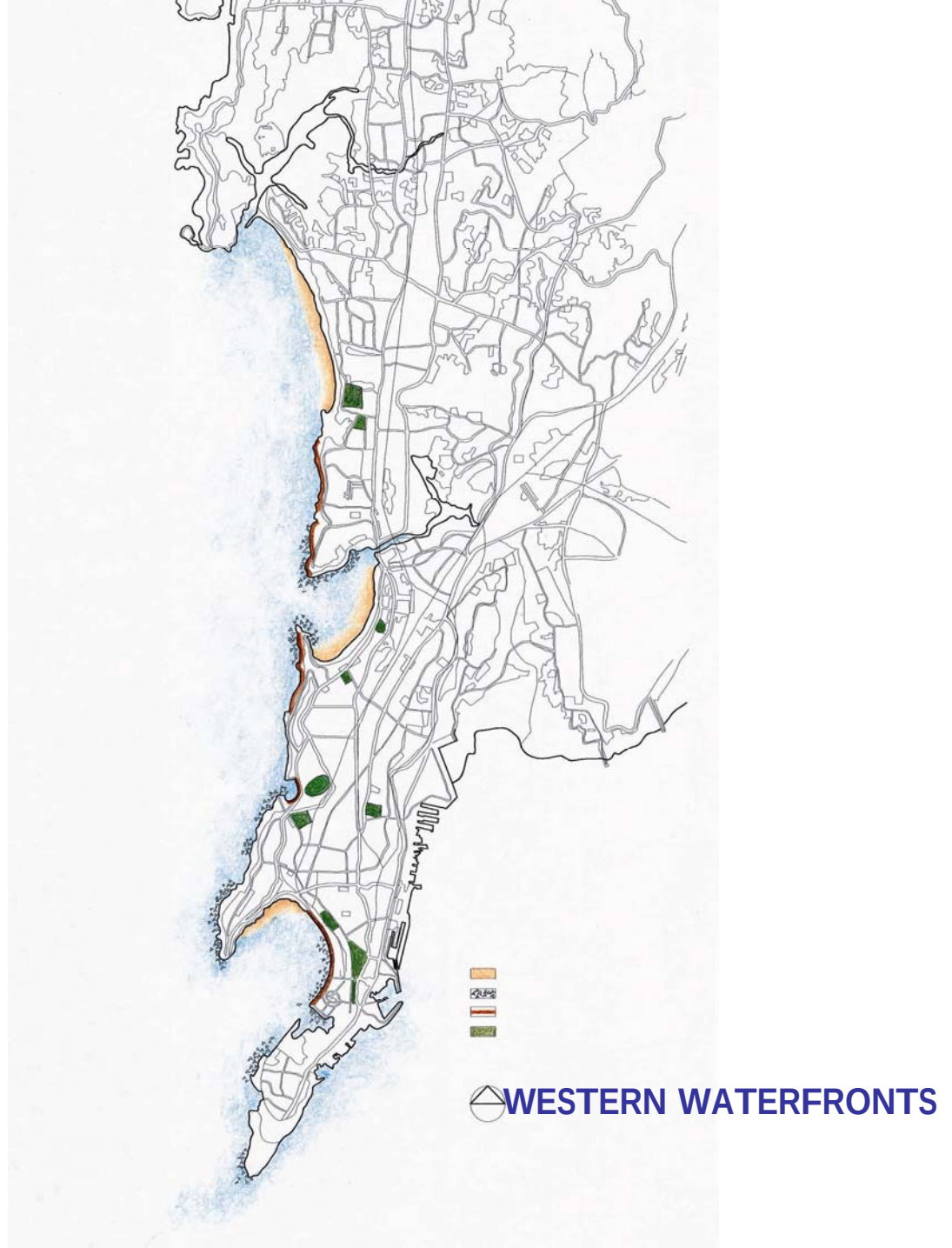




THE COVERT EASTERN SHORELINE



THE WASHED OUT WESTERN WATERFRONTS





GIVING MUMBAI A SEA-FRONT CHANGE

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: When a lackadaisical city government allowed one of its biggest assets—the waterfronts—to deteriorate into dumpyards and be used as open-air toilets, a determined group of citizens thought it was time to take charge. Over the last six years, thanks largely to a citizens' initiative, about seven kilometres of Mumbai's western waterfronts have been reclaimed and turned into what architect P K Das calls the city's "cultural forecourts".

On Thursday, this perseverance finally paid off when the Mumbai Waterfront Improvement Centre (MWIC), a recently registered trust, shared the \$100,000 Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award with another organisation for helping "transform the lives of Mumbai's citizens".

Das, one of the four trustees who received the award on behalf of the MWIC, has been largely credited with transforming Bandra Land's End and the Bandstand and Carter Road promenades, as well as the 4-km stretch of Juhu beach. He has done all this with the active support of resident associations and funds from local MPs.

A maverick housing activist, Das said he faced threats of physical violence when food stalls that had encroached on Juhu beach were sought to be relocated. "Our waterfronts are now unbarricaded public spaces, which are truly open and democratic in nature," he told TOI after receiving a Rs 2 lakh cheque, the MWIC's share of the award.

Civic activist and co-trustee of the MWIC, Darryl D'Monte, has been in the forefront of maintaining the two Bandra promenades, said, "It has been sometimes a long and tiring struggle to get these projects going."

Very often we have to do so in spite of the authorities. Six years after the inception of the two promenades in Bandra, we are facing opposition from the Maharashtra Maritime Board, which thinks it owns these public properties."

D'Monte accused the board of refusing the citizens' association permission to repair the sea walls, repave the structures and remove unauthorised encroachments.

The MWIC plans to utilise the prize money to push its plan for the Dadar-Prabhadevi beach, which is about

4km long and suffers from erosion. "The nourishment plan aims to check the erosion and to regain the beach for public use in one of the most congested areas of the island city," said the MWIC.

The Versova waterfront is the other project that Das plans to take up. The centre also proposes to survey and map water bodies, rivers, creeks and seafronts so it can plan public spaces.



PUTTING A SHINE ON OUR SHORES: The Bandstand promenade is a popular evening haunt for people from across Mumbai. (Above left) At the Khar end, the Carter Road promenade is designed to project into the rocks. (Above right) Strollers at Carter Road. (Below, from left) Actress and MP Shabana Azmi, Deutsche Bank chairman Josef Ackerman, architect P K Das and his MWIC colleague with their Rs 20 lakh cheque

THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Helped build the Carter Road promenade at Bandra, transforming what was a neglected and encroached seafront into a lively place for the public
- Similarly helped transform the Bandstand promenade
- Spruced up Land's End, where Bandra fort stood, and built an amphitheatre there
- Helped spruce up Juhu beach, especially by relocating ugly and intrusive food stalls to a proper food court

ON THE ANVIL

- A plan to reinvigorate the Dadar-Prabhadevi beach, which is 4km long and suffers from erosion. The MWIC wants the public to use the beach again
- Reviving and sprucing up the Versova waterfront
- Proposal to study, survey and map rivers, creeks, other water bodies and seafronts so more public spaces can be created
- Hold workshops, spread information

THE GOAL: TO OPEN UP OUR WORLD

The Mumbai Waterfront Improvement Committee (MWIC) was registered as a trust only a couple of months ago, but it has been involved in transforming the city for several years now. Its main aim is to create places along waterfronts, and maybe even other water bodies, for the public to relax and snatch much-needed moments of leisure.

"The 44 kilometres of the western coast have never been considered in the planning and development process as an integral part of the city's land. On the contrary, the waterfronts have been constantly abused by reclamation, sewage disposal and encroachment. Yet, for the millions who live in our crowded city, the waterfronts are the only major open spaces—whether it is Marine Drive or Chowpatty, Haji Ali or Worli Seafacade, Dadar beach or Bandra Bandstand, Carter Road or Juhu beach, or Versova," states the project description of the MWIC.



Winds of change sweep across Mumbai's vandalised waterfronts

By Gunwanthi Balaram

MUMBAI: "In a city gasping for breath, it is quite dreadful," observes British architect and 'Bombay boy' Pierre d'Avoine, "that Mumbai's greatest open spaces, its waterfronts, are being so vandalised that its people can derive little benefit from them." Treated as dumping grounds for debris, garbage and sewage, or as free sites for encroachment, several of Mumbai's waterfronts are actually shunned by its residents. So, it is heartening to find some citizens' groups and architects launching joint initiatives to nurse their bit of waterfront back to life—as in Bandra, for instance.

Walk along the Bandra waterfront now, and you will find that the dramatic black rocks along the old Band Stand are rising from the debris, as it were, as are the mangroves off Carter Road. What's more, a new promenade is being constructed along these contours of seafront so people can take a brisk walk and get a breath of fresh air.

The Bandra project, on which work started a couple of months ago, is part of architect and housing activist P.K. Das' masterplan for the restoration of the city's waterfront. Drawn up over two years ago, the masterplan looks at the phased rejuvenation of three types of waterfront areas—public spaces like beaches and waterfront promenades; native settlements like fishing villages; and seaside heritage precincts like the Worli, Mahim, Bandra and Vasai forts.



CITIZENS' WALK: The landscaped promenade at Bandra Band Stand, master-planned by a local architect, will involve citizens' participation in its execution and maintenance

To begin with, he is sensibly tackling public spaces. These include 14 independent schemes estimated to cost about Rs 1 crore each to execute. Committed to the rules of the coastal regulation zone, the architect is anti-reclamation and believes instead that "it is important to stop the abuse of our existing waterfronts and work within the existing realities to progressively restore and preserve their natural beauty".

His restoration projects envisage the creation of landscaped walkway, pedestrianisation, seating, lighting, security, drainage, planting of suitable trees and shrubs and the installation of plaques on the history of the waterfront/neighbourhood. "Above all, they involve citizens' participation in execution and maintenance."

The Bandra scheme is being executed under the supervision of a team of local residents' associations with an initial grant from Rajya Sabha MP and actress Shabana Azmi. She has donated Rs one crore from her MP's constituency development fund to the Bandra-Juhu waterfront development programme—Rs 30 lakhs each for Carter Road and Band Stand and Rs 40 lakhs for Juhu.

"We will mobilise donations to carry on the upgradation work, and collect a small monthly maintenance fee from our 1,200 members to maintain the promenade. There will be no entry fee and everybody is welcome to use the promenade," say Arup Sarbhadikary and Ka-

mala Soni of the Bandra Band Stand Residents' Association. "Impressed by the work so far, new sponsors are coming forward," adds a Carter Road resident.

"I'm thrilled, my faith in the abilities of the local citizens' groups and the architect of the scheme has been vindicated," says Shabana Azmi. "Such localised initiatives are the best alternative to large grandiose plans which move away from citizens rather than draw them in. They also cut across class barriers," maintains the MP, adding that she intends to continue to support them in every way she can.

Work on the Juhu project will commence next month, according to Ms Azmi. It envisages sprucing up the beach as well as the 'influence areas', i.e. the Juhu-Tara Road and the seven axis roads leading to the beach, and creating a plaza around the Shivaji statue with proper sanitation facilities for both hawkers and visitors.

Several agencies, including the traffic police, the taximen's and hawkers' unions, residents' groups and the National Airport Authority have been consulted on the issue and have agreed to cooperate in the Rs 2.4 crore project, adds Mr Das.

The plans for the Dadar-Prabhadevi waterfront have also been cleared by the BMC, and the architect and local citizens' groups are discussing how best to implement the programme. "Hopefully, it will all come together. It's hard work, but very rewarding," he says.

A community effort scripts a success story

THE development of the seafront at Carter Road and Bandra Bandstand has won international recognition, with the receipt of this year's award instituted by the Washington-based Waterfront Centre for Waterfront Development Projects. Selected among entries from all over the world, the award recognises the efforts of an entire community to 'retrieve its waterfront for the public'.

A few years ago, the 4.5-km stretch of the Bandra seafront was little more than a dumping ground, sewage disposal area and thickly peopled by encroachers. It was P K Das, an architect by profession and also among the architects of the save-the-waterfront scheme, who took up the cause of the depleting open spaces in Mumbai and conducted an extensive study of Mumbai's waterfronts. Soon, the Bandra West Residents' Association (BWRA), the Bandra Bandstand Residents Trust (BBRT), P K Das & Associates and Member of Parliament Shabana Azmi came together to save the Bandra seafront. What



Bandra Bandstand after the redevelopment work

followed is a classic success story of citizens' civic efforts.

"We felt we needed to do something to protect our water-fronts," says Darryl D'Monte, president of BWRA and noted environmental activist. "So we got together and forged a partnership." Das handled the architectural inputs, Shabana

Azmi contributed nearly Rs 1 crore from her MP's (local area development) funds and the residents took up the cause as one they all held dear.

That was perhaps when the mission's success was assured — For the first time, different organisations pitched in together. The govern-

ment in the shape of the MHADA and the private citizens' forums worked in co-ordination to restore the picturesque coastline at Bandstand and Carter Road. The results of the redevelopment efforts are in plain sight — palm trees, amphitheatres, a children's park, an art court.

Having re-designed the facade, there was still the question of maintenance. That's where Harsh Mariwalla of Marico Industries contributed his bit. Marico Industries has so far spent almost Rs 25 lakh towards the beautification drive and planted more than 30 species of palm trees. That's where the name Palm Promenade at Carter Road comes from. Another corporate, US Vitamins, contributes to the maintenance of Bandstand.

The seafront has gradually grown into a buzzing cultural centre, where concerts, yoga and tai-chi sessions and plays are held. "There's a play every Friday, and in January 2003 we will be organising a major concert and a carnival too," says D'Monte.

— UJJAYINI DAS



THE BANDRA WATERFRONTS - BANDSTAND













THE BANDRA WATERFRONTS - CARTER ROAD













THE BANDRA WATERFRONTS - LAND'S END





Get ready for a clean Juhu beach

In 12 weeks, relocate food stalls and build car park, orders high court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JUNE 28

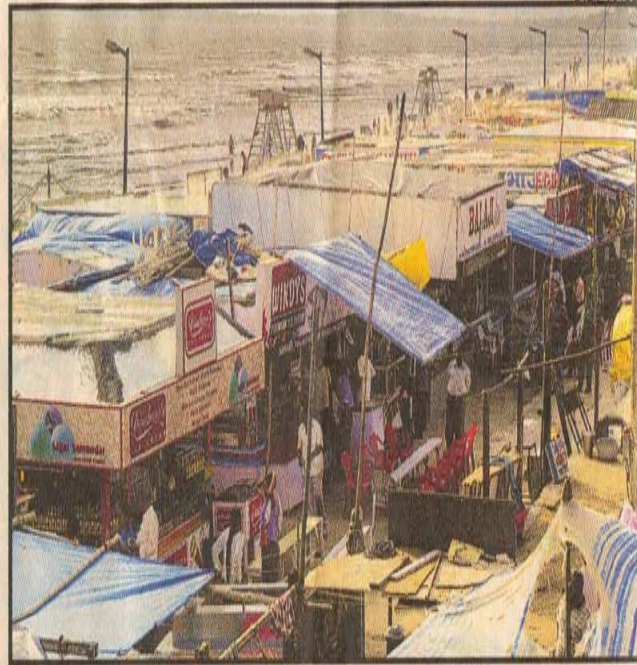
ONE of Mumbai's busiest beachfronts will soon bid adieu to the chaos created by more than 100 hawkers. It will also sport a gateway to the beach and several public conveniences.

Thanks to an order delivered by the Bombay High Court on Monday, the three-year-old Juhu beach restoration and redevelopment plan spearheaded by residents has now received a major impetus.

A division bench of acting Chief Justice A P Shah

THE PLAN

- 125 food stalls to be relocated to proposed food court
- Podium to be built as gateway to the beach
- Parking lot to be revamped to accommodate more vehicles
- Ramp to facilitate Ganapati immersions
- Encroachments including bungalow extensions to be cleared



Nearly 125 bustling food stalls selling piping-hot *vada pav*, *masala dosa* and *pav bhajis* will be relocated to a yet-to-be built food court at the northern end of the central chowpatty

and Justice S U Kamdar directed the relocation of 125 food stalls at the central chowpatty along the Juhu Tara Road within 12 weeks.

The petition was filed by 120 local residents' associations, Rotary Clubs and hotels.

Accordingly, the central chowpatty will get a podium that will act as the gateway to the beach.

Before it is built, 125

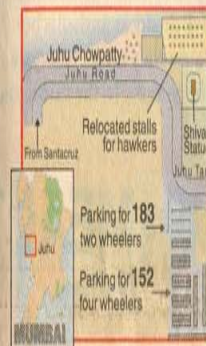
bustling food stalls selling piping-hot *vada pav*, *masala dosa* and *pav bhajis* will be relocated to a yet-to-be built food court at the northern end of the central chowpatty.

The facility, says the order, should have hygienic surroundings, water connections and a garbage disposal and drainage network.

Each stall owner will have to deposit Rs 40,000

with the suburban district collector that would entitle him to a 2 m x 1 m built-up space to be built by the Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority.

The food court, the high court said while considering objections raised by the Chhatrapati Shivaji Smarak Samiti, will be located 60 feet from a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji standing at the elbow of Juhu Tara



Road.

A concrete ramp will scythe through the food court and take beach-goers to the shore.

According to the plan, a ramp has been built at the northern section of the central chowpatty to facilitate Ganapati immersions. Public convenience centres will also be built at the central chowpatty.

The high court has also ordered the civic authorities to return land being used as a parking lot to the Airports Authority of India, which had leased it to the civic body.

It will be revamped to accommodate more vehicles — 185 two-wheelers and 152 four-wheelers.

The Rs 1.5-crore plan also includes clearing eight access lanes, creating a small park and removing encroachments including private bungalow extensions.

Counsels Shiraz Rustomjee and Jamshed Mistry represented the petitioners.

SLUMBAY WATCH



A walk on the beach at Dadar can be compared with a stroll through a garbage dump, say some residents

Clara Lewis | TNN

Faced with a barrage of criticism regarding the poor upkeep of Mumbai's western waterfront, the civic administration is now planning a beach nourishment plan along 4.5 kms of the Dadar-Prabhadevi seafront. The project, which includes building promenades and restoring gardens along the seafront, is aimed at restoring a beach that has been washed away under waves of sewage, flotsam and debris.

The stretch to be covered is from the Hinduja hospital end at Mahim to Worli village and will take around two years to complete from the day work commences. "We are planning to appoint a consultant to revive this beach which, at present, is bereft of sand," said R A Rajeev, additional municipal commissioner.

The project is estimated to cost around Rs 12-15 crore and will require sand to be imported from other beaches (and even the desert) to make the stretch more hospitable to residents and holidaying crowds.

Work is likely to start in six months to a year, and would be a daunting task considering that it would require diverting sewage lines which spew out waste on to the beach, resettling slum dwellers living nearby, and coordination between agencies because land comes under the

The BMC's beach nourishment plan would require tonnes of sand to be imported and spread out along the 4.5-km-long stretch between Mahim and Worli

collector's jurisdiction and the revamp is being planned by the civic corporation.

The blueprint is based on an idea put forward by architect P K Das who has also been involved in the beautification and restoration of Carter Road, Bandra Bandstand and Juhu beach. "Das will be appointed as a con-

sultant since he already has a plan ready," said Rajeev.

Of late, BMC has been repeatedly censured by activists and citizen groups regarding the plight of Mumbai's beaches including those at Versova, Dadar and Marve. Mahim resident Ravi Thatte, who is also on a civic supervisory panel, says, "The beach is polluted by untreated sewage from illegal drains. BMC had appointed a contractor to clean up the beach, but he's not doing a very good job. There are also two slums in the area. Restoring the beach is a grandiose plan and will take a lot of doing."

It was former Lok Sabha speaker and Dadar resident Manohar Joshi who set the ball rolling for the Dadar revival plan after a visit to Bandra where the waterfront had been restored. Joshi proposed that a wall be constructed to prevent the beach from further erosion. Eventually, the idea of a wall was shot down when environmentalists pointed out potentially adverse effects. "Sea-wall construction

is now banned in the US as well as central Europe. It is believed that it damages the environment by restricting the natural cycle of in and outflow of water. Also the impact of construction of a sea-wall is felt at other beaches where the displaced water reclaims its space," said Das.

Joshi's suggestions, however, spurred a group to work on an alternate plan. To start with, a coastal and hydraulic study was carried out by DHI (India) Water and Environment Pvt Ltd at the site. This included drawing up a description of the area's coastline, an assessment of the wave climate and hydrodynamic conditions in the bay, and compiling recommendations on how to implement the project.

The study found the Dadar-Prabhadevi stretch to be a shallow tidal beach, narrow and sloping. Government's efforts to protect the coast had resulted in rubble encroaching upon it. Besides drains open onto it and unplanned constructions have contributed to the debris and pollution.

BEACH REVIVAL

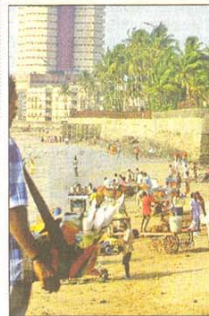
Phase I

This includes a proposal to increase the width of the beach from 5 metres to 50 metres across a stretch of 1.5 km from S K Bole Marg to Suryavanshi Kshatriya Sabhagriha Marg.

Phase II

This includes redevelopment of the beach at Hinduja Hospital, Keluskar Marg (North & South), Mayor's Bungalow, development of two gardens — Baji Prabhu Udyan and Sant Dnyaneshwar Udyan — apart from creation of access roads and promenades

Total cost: Rs 12-15 crore



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- Beach nourishment by bringing in sand from other places: 9 months
- Redevelopment of two gardens along the waterfront: 4 months
- Promenades to be built at two locations: 6 months
- Extension of drains to divert the sewage: 4 months
- Building access roads: 6 months

SHIFTING THE SAND

- Since the bay at Dadar-Mahim has very little sand, it has been decided to bring it in from outside.
- "Roughly around 300 trucks per day for 6 months or six barges a day for four months will be sufficient to create the beach. While the sea will continue to wash away sand it will also bring it back and the loss will be minimal," said P K Das, architect in charge of the project.
- Sand will be brought in from other beaches, and may be even the desert. Some replenishment of sand may also be required every 5-10 years.

Citizen activism hits Mumbai's waterfront

TIMES NEW NETWORK

Mumbai: Increased awareness and activism on the part of citizens has over the last decade helped spruce up some stretches of the western waterfront. It started with Girgaum Chowpatty in 1999 when Shiv Sena leader Pramod Navalkar, a minister in the then ruling Sena-BJP government, took the lead in cleaning the beach.

"Girgaum is a typically middle-class dominated locality and there are few places where these people can go for fresh air or relaxation. At that time Chowpatty was infested with beggars, vagrants, malishwallas, hawkers and it was rather unsafe for a family to spend a late evening, so I decided to restore it to these people," says Navalkar.

Navalkar being in the ruling party certainly helped as he received co-operation from the collector's office and the police. BMC now ensures the beach is clean at all times with the help of private contractors, a police watch tower and eight policemen who guard it at all times. What's more, a food court has ensured that stalls have been herded at one end and are not scattered all over like earlier.

A similar initiative worked at Bandra Bandstand and Carter Road too following an incident in 1997-98 when a ship named Zendong ran aground off the Bandra coast. With the authorities unwilling to clear the wreck, there were reports that it would be converted into a float. "It was then that we went to court against the proposal and won. Architect P K Das had a plan for the beautification of the beach and it served as a main catalyst to restore the beach," said Roshan Daboiwala, a longtime resident and member of the Carter Road Residents' Association.

Das, she said, also helped obtain funds from then MP Shabana Azmi to implement it. Azmi gave Rs 1 crore each to the Carter Road and Bandstand beaches. Today, not only do residents and visitors enjoy an unrestricted view of the sea, but the promenades have ensured that the beach is not encroached upon.



▲ Juhu too benefitted from a residents' initiative when local groups approached the Bombay high court in 2002 seeking the cleaning up of the city's largest beach.

▼ The Bandstand makeover was aided by funding from the local Member of Parliament Shabana Azmi who used part of her constituency funds to spruce up the area



▼ The Girgaum Chowpatty stretch, once infested with vagrants, beggars and hawkers, has been cleaned up and a food court built at one end to decongest the beach



Chimbai beach to get facelift

Residents' efforts to save seafront forces a reluctant BMC to take charge

Sayli Udas Mankikar
Mumbai, June 26

BANDRA MAY soon have another waterfront to be proud of. If everything works well, the little known and disappearing Chimbai Beach will get a makeover with features like promenades and fish-food courts.

The Chimbai beach is a one-km stretch between Joggers' Park and Bandra Bandstand.

Credit goes to the local residents, who have been fighting to save the beach for two years. Impressed by their efforts, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has now taken over to develop the seafront. The BMC has appointed architect P.K. Das as a consultant.

"We will spend Rs 4 crore for this public-private project. We will meet the architect and then discuss the plans with the stakeholders around the area," said Anil Diggikar, additional municipal commissioner (Projects). The plan also includes a drying area for local fishermen.

The beach — an extension of Chimbai fishing village — is a sorry picture. A number of illegal structures line the narrow lanes leading to the waters, while rocks bordering the sea

have been dumped with debris.

"We will replace this with sand-terraces, promenades and resting areas. There will also be a food court on weekends where locals will make fish delicacies," said Das.

"This would not have been possible without the persistent effort of citizens."

It all began after the fisher folk of Chimbai approached the H-West Ward Residents' Trust to stop the Maritime Board from constructing a 'tsunami wall' along the coastline after the 2005 deluge. "The flooding was actually

because of the debris," said Shyama Kulkarni, chairman of the trust.

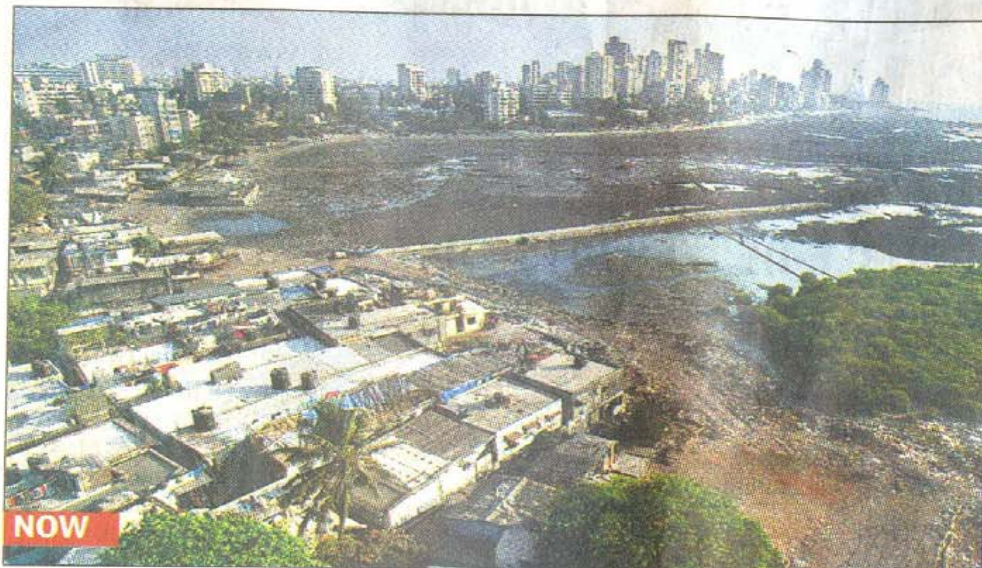
The BMC had then expressed its inability to clear the debris saying JCBs could not reach the beach. But Bandra resident Vickram Rao, using personal funds, cleared 40 truckloads of debris from the site. A surprised BMC then took over.

"We are glad the plan has moved ahead, while the BMC and collector have promised to clear the encroachments," Kulkarni said, adding that there were still about 100 truckloads of debris on the site.

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hindustantimes.com



PEOPLE
POWER



ANAND SHINDE/HT FILE PHOTO

Bandra's Chimbai beach stretches from Joggers' Park to Bandstand.





THE 26TH JULY 2005 FLOODS



DESTRUCTION OF MANGROVES



15/10/2006

DESTRUCTION OF MANGROVES



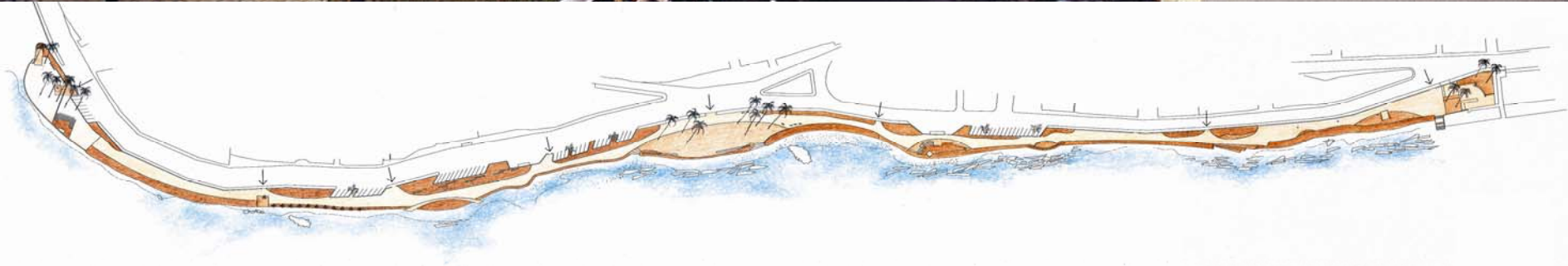
DEGENERATION OF MUD FLATS



DETERIORATION OF THE SEAFRONTS

VARIOUS WATERFRONT PROJECTS

- AT A GLANCE



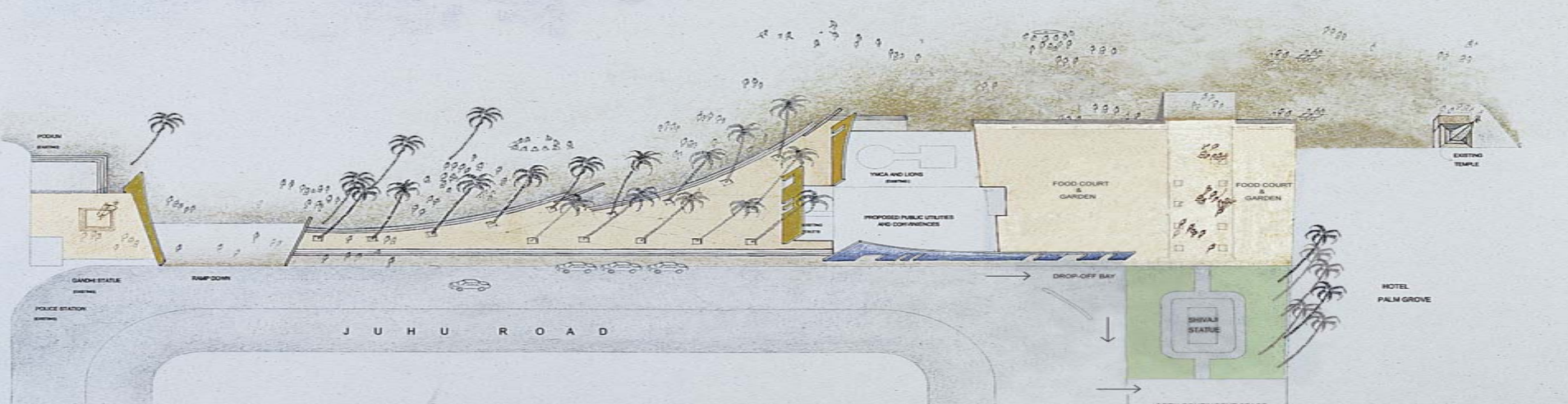
BANDRA BANDSTAND



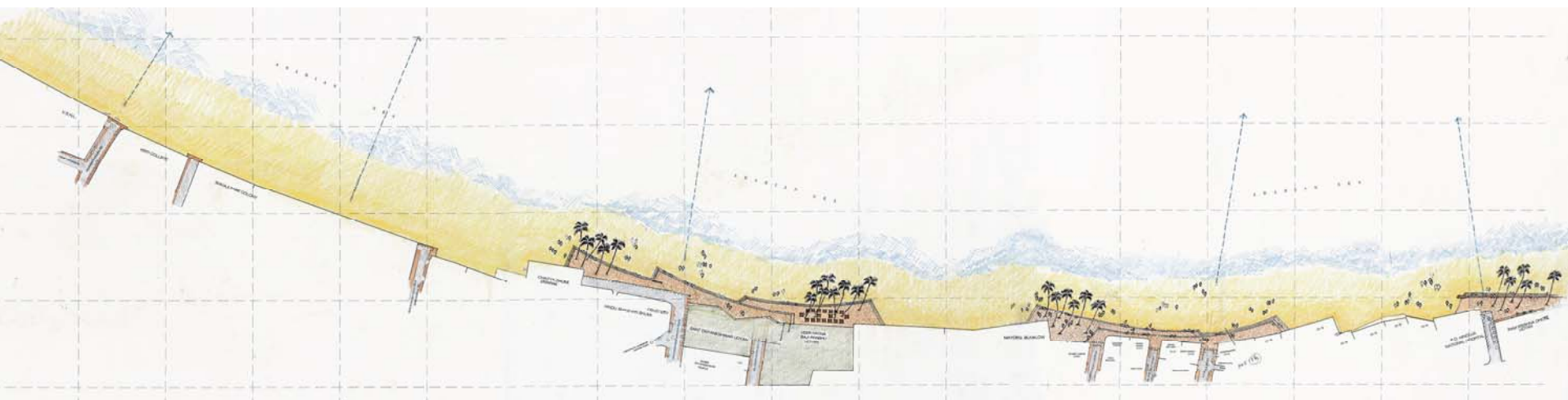
LAND'S END



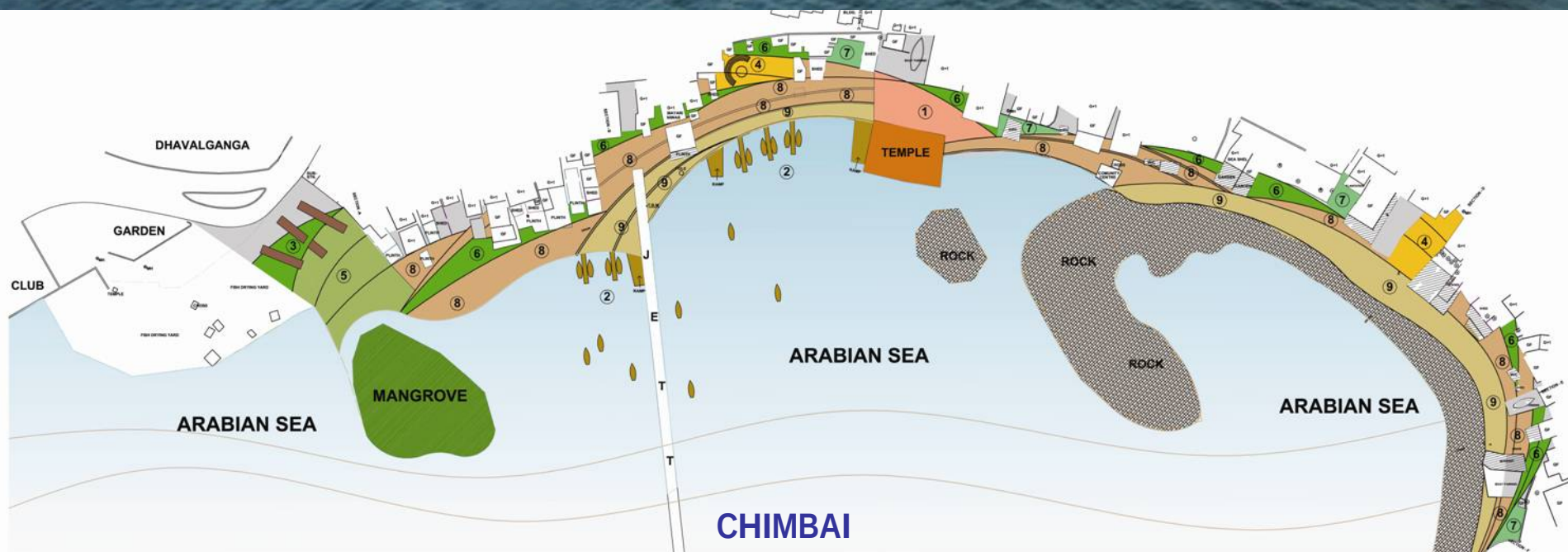
CARTER ROAD, BANDRA



JUHU BEACH



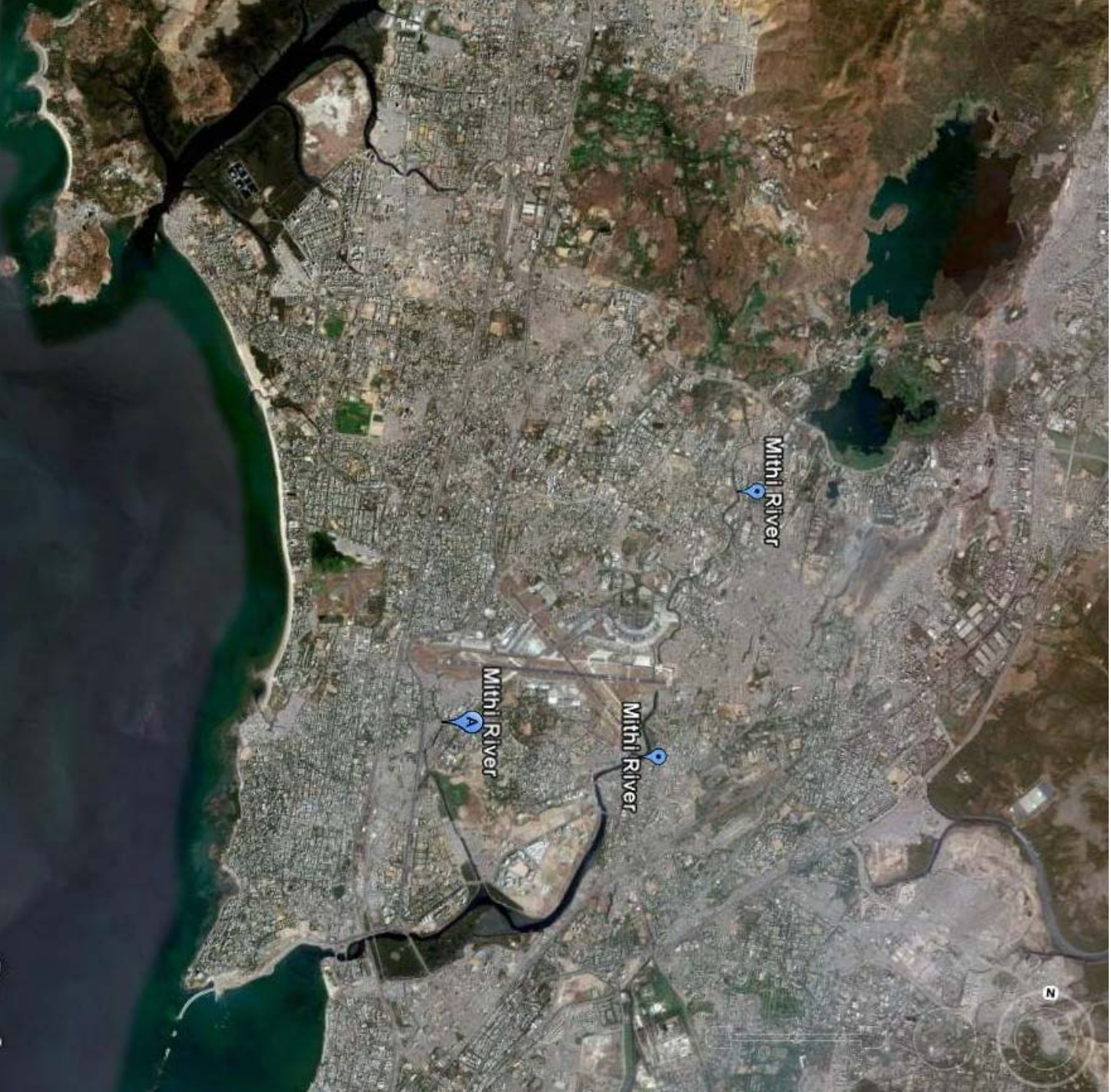
DADAR- PRABHADEVI





MITHI RIVER

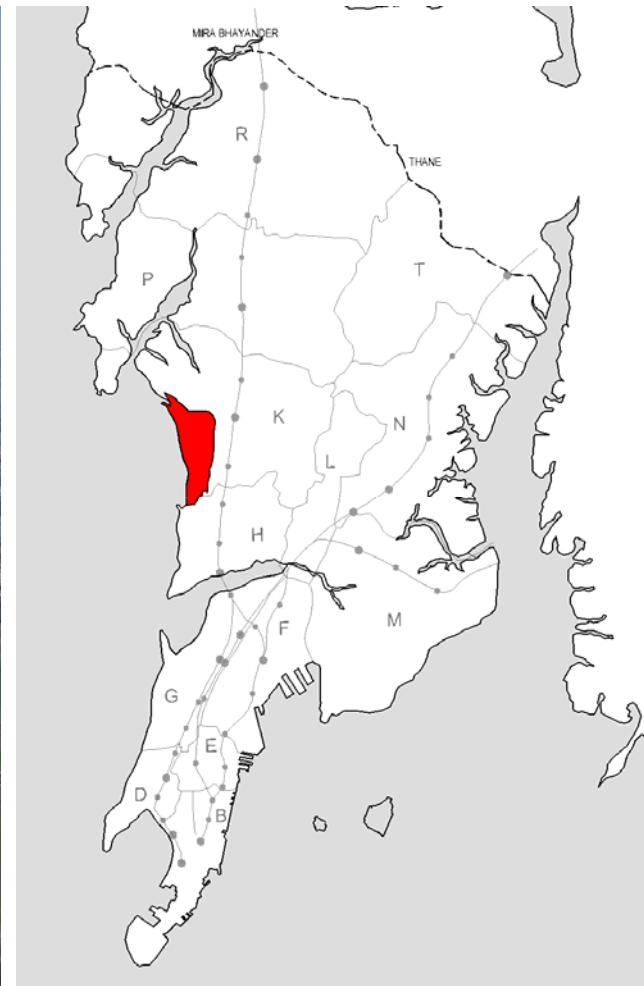


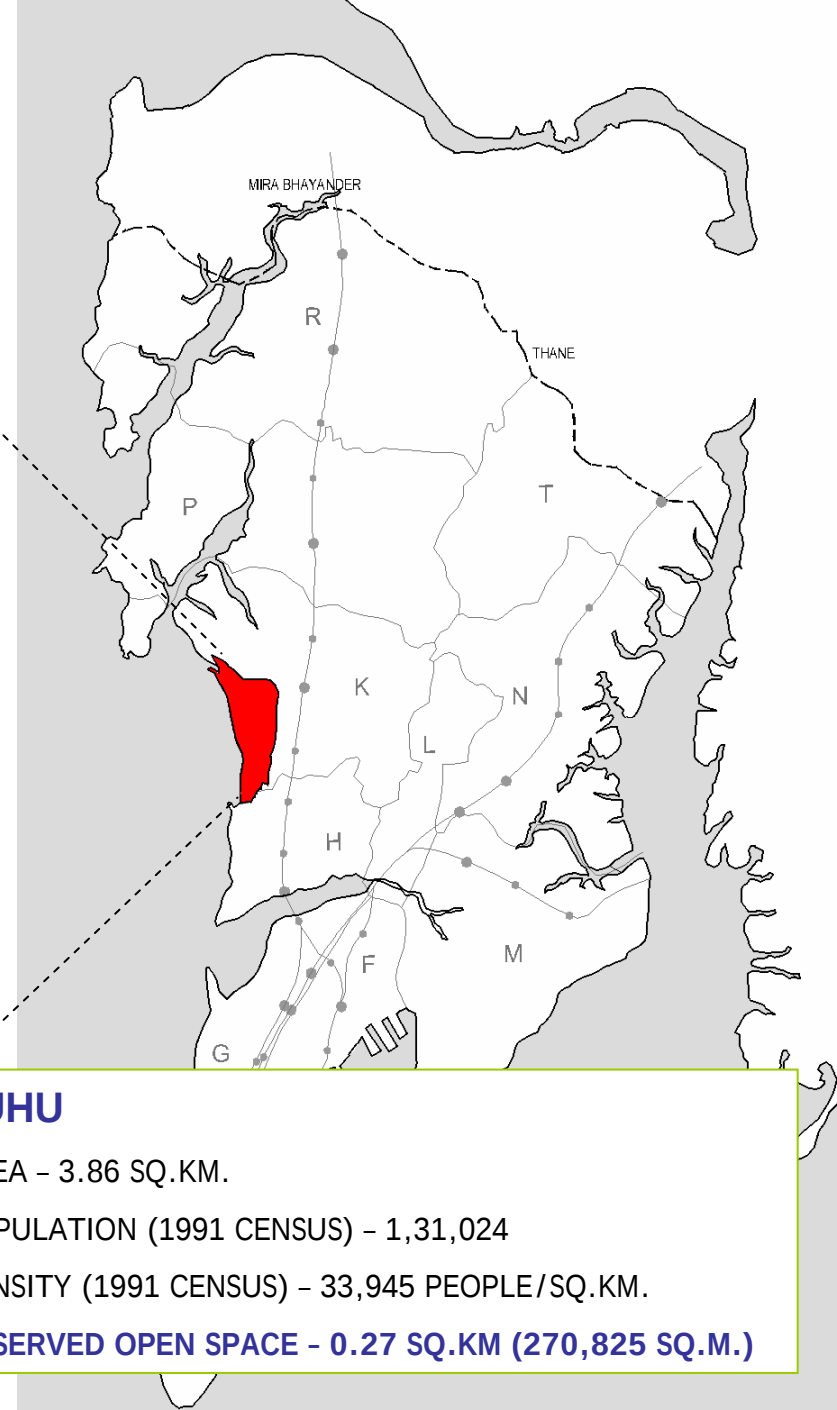
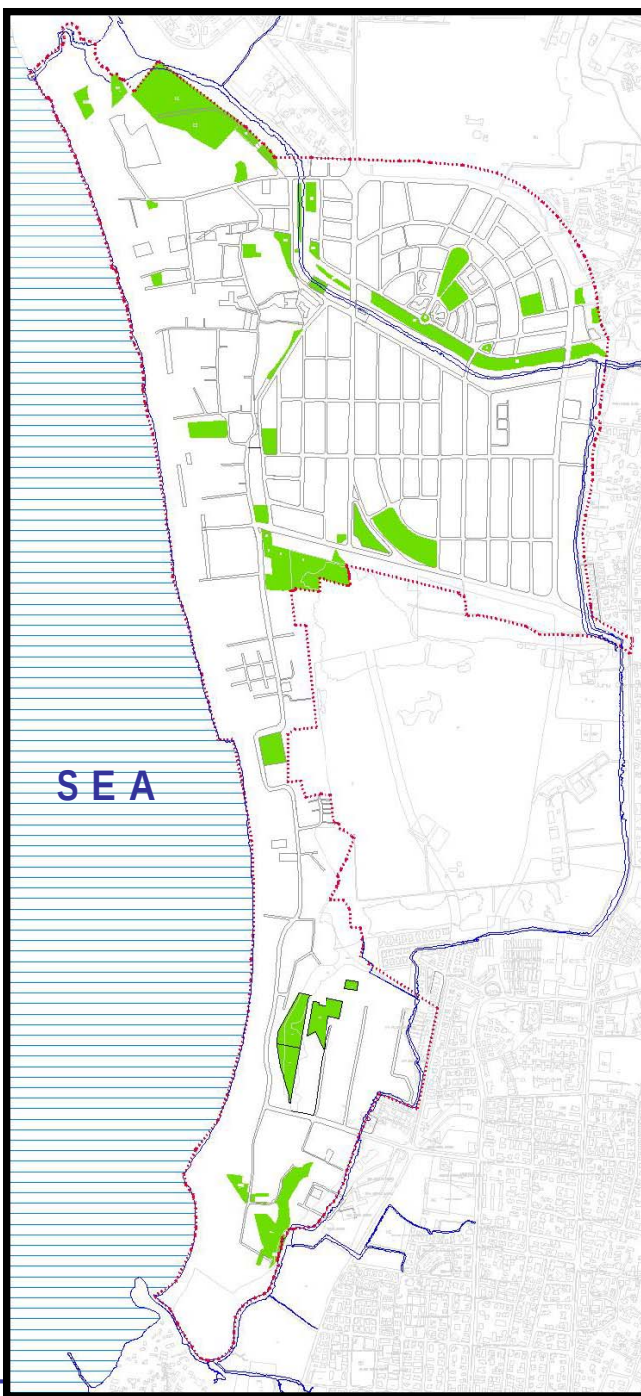




GATEWAY OF INDIA

VISION JUHU





JUHU

AREA - 3.86 SQ.KM.

POPULATION (1991 CENSUS) - 1,31,024

DENSITY (1991 CENSUS) - 33,945 PEOPLE/SQ.KM.

RESERVED OPEN SPACE - 0.27 SQ.KM (270,825 SQ.M.)



JVPD 2008: 3.36 SQ.M OPEN
SPACE/PERSON



Potential openspace in Juhu = 3 x Oval Maidan , 22 x Wankhede Stadium















The Juhu Master Plan

- Networking public spaces
- Conserving open spaces
- Pedestrianization
- Improving transport infrastructure
- Building social amenities like educational and health facilities
- Improving the standard of living in slums and goathans
- Providing space and security to hawkers and developing the Irla nala (drainage)
- Protect the natural environment and the best features of the built environment
- Increase commercial viability
- Suffice housing need and its development
- Encourage tourist and leisure facilities
- Protect and support communities
- Create social inclusion
- Provide people with a voice in landscapes of rapid change and design urban places and spaces for people.

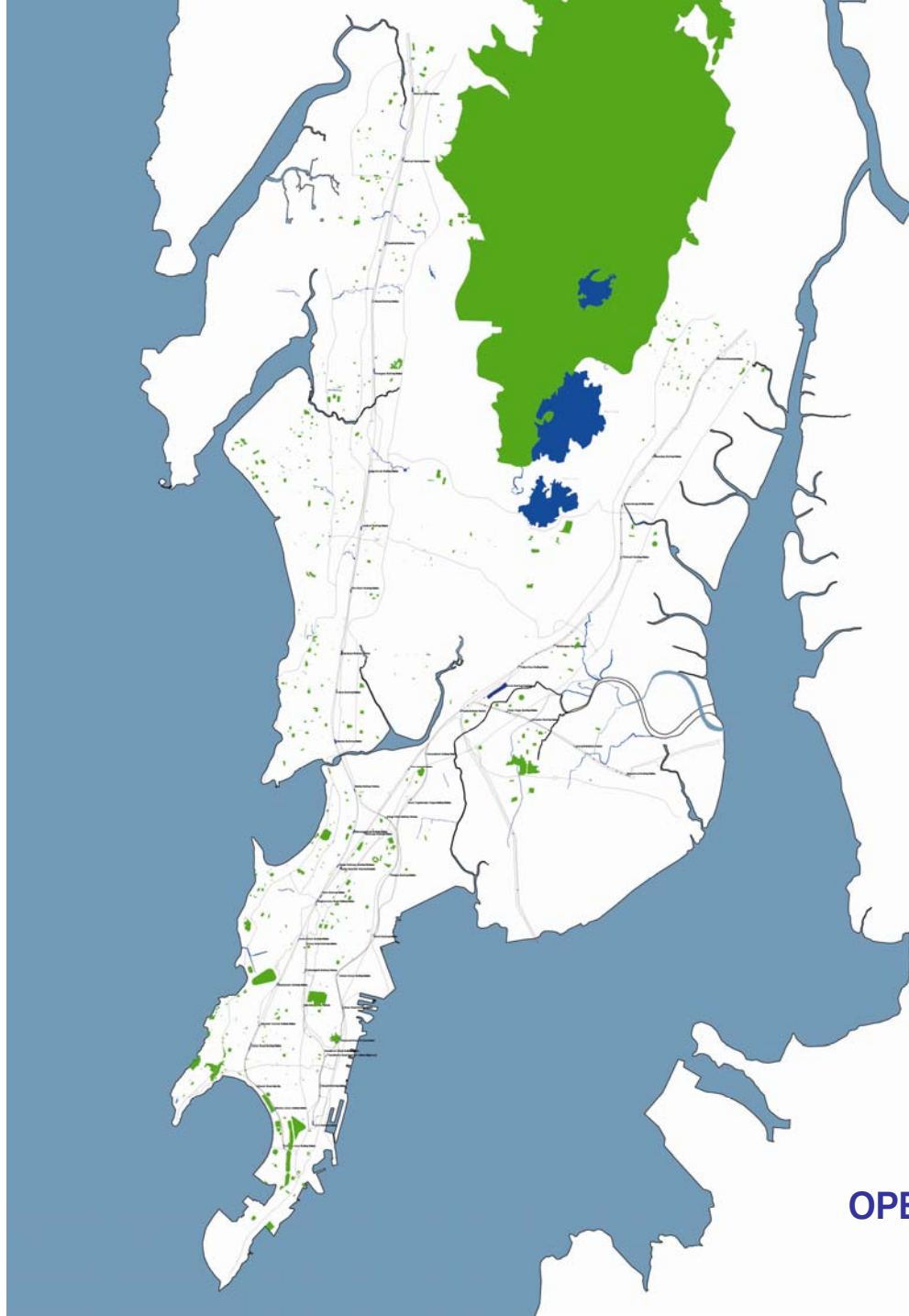


REVISIONING MUMBAI

Democratising Public Spaces and Waterfronts



Indira Munshi & P.K. Das



OPEN SPACES IN MUMBAI

THANK YOU