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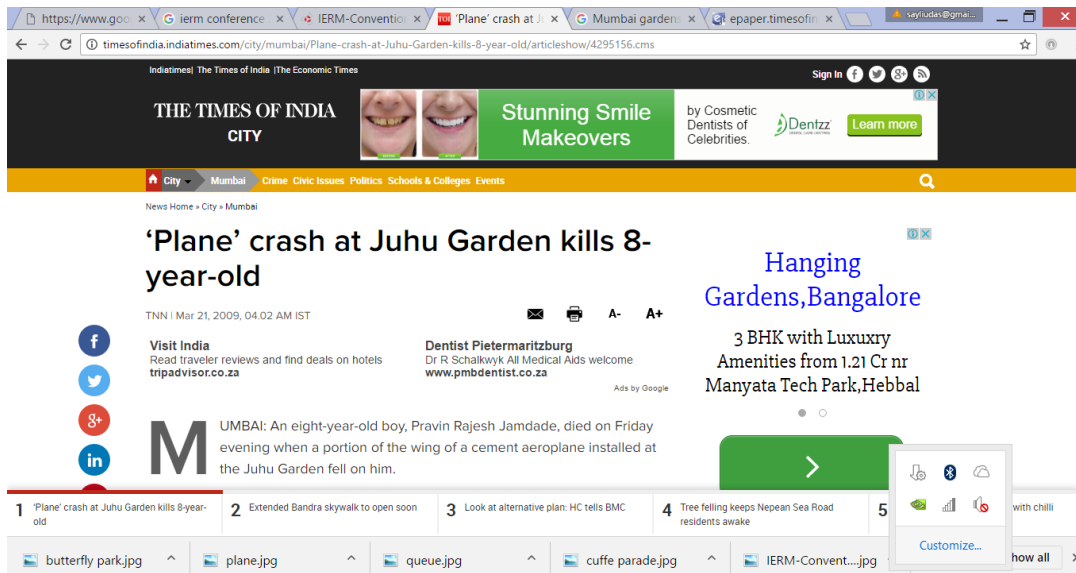
**Mumbai's open spaces policy**  
Moving towards stronger legislations

# About Mumbai

- Population: 12 million
- Open space available: 1,530 Ha (3,780 acres/ 1,53,00,000 m<sup>2</sup>).
- 250 acres of beach side
- This gives Mumbaikars an abysmally low average of 1.23 m<sup>2</sup> of open space per capita.
- Mumbai has the largest annual budget for any Indian city, the funds allocated for open spaces account for only 1.3%. In the year 2014-15, only 30% of the allocated amount was actually used.

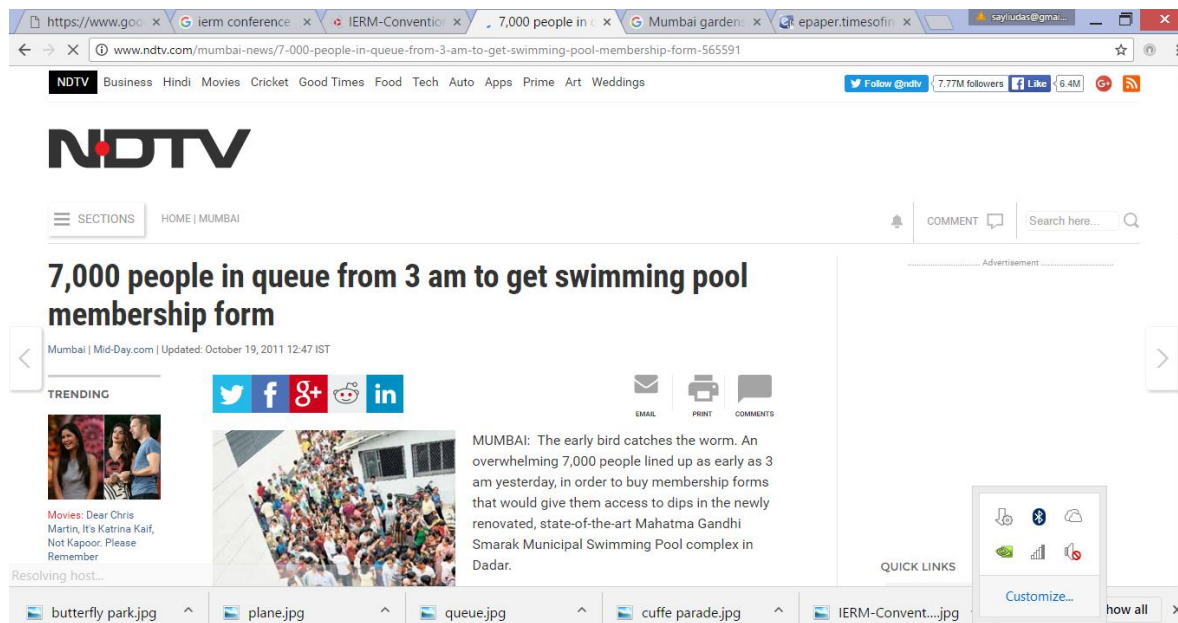
# CRUMBLING & INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE

- TOY PLANE KILLS BOY

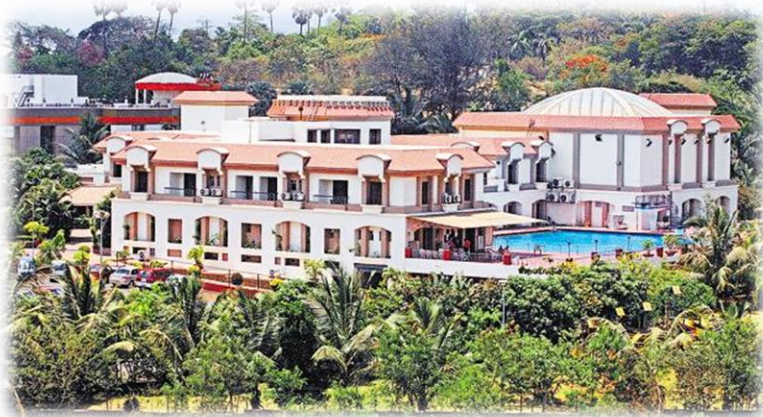


# PEOPLE ARE HELPLESS

- QUEUE FOR SWIMMING MEMBERSHIP
- MUMBAI HAS AN ABYSMAL 7 PUBLIC POOLS



# The nail in the coffin



These elite clubs came up on public land robbing people of their spaces through a development clause , but got violated

Nine such clubs are run by people with political affiliations , which are not open to non-members despite the rule to open it to public



# Protests by citizen groups & media



- In 2007 and 2015
- NGO's - Citispace
- Think Tanks- ORF & UDRI public discussions
- Advanced Locality Management
- Eminent citizens sent an open letter to CM

# What has all this done?

- Sense of mistrust against the Mumbai corporation
- Policy paralysis
- Crumbling infrastructure
- Reluctance to take decisions related to open spaces considering the public outburst
- Demotivated uninvolved staff of the MCGM garden department



# Why is this paper relevant now?

- It is a live paper and meant to create impact
- The development plan of Mumbai for 2014-2034- twenty-years- is being finalised
- The Municipal Corporation elections is scheduled for February 2017 and it's a 5-year term
- Ruling party has huge anti-incumbency



# How the change can come

- No cosmetic changes can make a permanent dent
- Problem needs to be identified at the root and institutional changes need to be set in
- A starting point and base for every decision related to open spaces comes from legislations and policy
- Understanding that the treatment of public spaces needs to have people at its core

# 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Indian constitution

- Decentralization of powers to the civic corporation
- 12<sup>th</sup> schedule included provisions of gardens , playgrounds and parks in the responsibilities of a municipal corporation including Mumbai
- States should clarify municipal functions as obligatory and discretionary
- Formation of ward level committees –Bill of Urban Rights for further decentralised governance

# BMC Act 1888

- Archaic law formed pre-Independence
- Very little effort to amend it
- Maintaining open space is a discretionary duty
- This explains why the budgeting for open spaces is poor- and there is no single policy
- There is no seriousness in strengthening the gardens department and thrust is on outsourcing the job

# MCGM's Open spaces policy

- At present there is none since the government has kept the decision on hold suspecting backlash in elections
- The draft policy had a major outsourcing component that would have caused further protests by locals.
- The open spaces policy never spoke of the garden department
- There is no clarity on how this is going

# Development plan of Mumbai

- 20-year master plan for the city
- Never included slums since their status was undecided -60% population excluded while planning for the space
- Unrealistic targets- 4 square meter per capita through reclamation, taking green zones. Till now its 1991 targets haven't been met
- Several authorities, para-statal agencies in Mumbai, lands not included
- TDR as a concept backfired as a result of no complementary infrastructure planning

# Suggestions

- Mumbai's open spaces policy should be for ENTIRE Mumbai irrespective of agency that owns the land.
- Open spaces protection and maintenance should be made mandatory- no private players as caretakers. PPP can be a consideration
- A single integrated policy defining the department role and that of the private agencies, should set goals, vision, mission and objectives
- Audits and evaluations should be a must

- Cost plans should be clearly drawn incorporated into city budgets
- Complementary policy instruments should come up in other departments
- **MOST IMPORTANT-** Community participation- get them on ward committees by bringing in a further amendment to the constitution



# Promising examples



**Malabar Hill garden**



**Butterfly park- garden**

# Thank You for a patient hearing

Lets talk further:

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