



‘Watery Pasts’

Playful Explorations with Digital Media

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Building ethical values for water security

“Water only can be saved,

For it can not be made

Dadaji (Grandpa) saw it in the
river

Father saw it in the well

We’ve only seen it in taps

But what about our children?

Where will they see it?

No one knows

No one knows

No one knows...”

[Source: Sakshi, Tina, Niharika,
Ghatgara village, Madhya Pradesh, India
www.wateraidindia.in/donate/heroes-of-change]



In schools, communities, academia, practice, water services, policies: we need to re-imagine what water 'is' and what water 'means' for all users (Charter, Global Network of Water Museums, 2017)

Understanding our 'living' water heritage

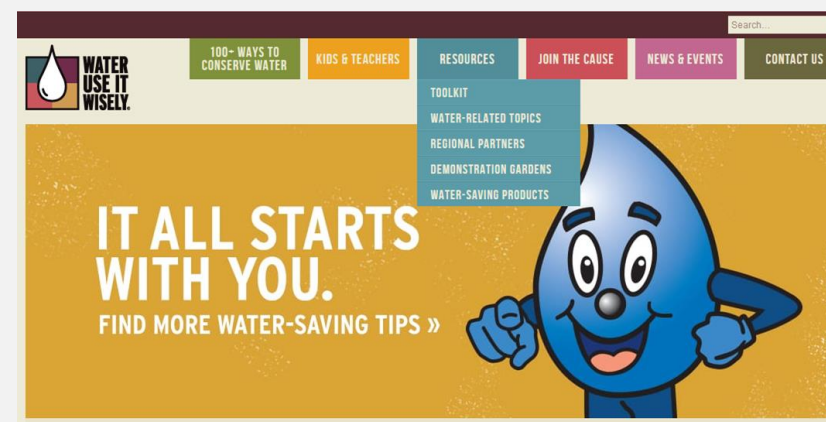
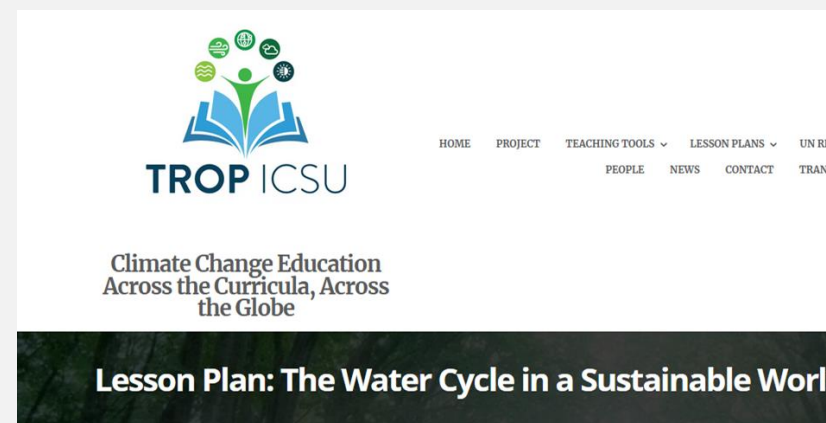
- Stepwells, tanks, ponds, etc., complex history of social space, water, access, exclusion
- Centralized piped water supply systems, hygiene, sewerage: disconnected communities from water
- With development, greater water use, wastage, pollution
- Importance of 'secondary' sources for water security (Jal Jeevan Mission, India)



Ashapura Mata Ni Vav, Ahmedabad; Toorji Ka Jhalra, stepwellcafe.com, Jodhpur

Current Curriculum on Water Education in India

- Textual, factual, non - imaginative
- More science based rather than focussing on narratives, experiences, hands on learning and building collective responsibility
- Less likely to engage young children with only one form of communication – reading and memorising



14 Water

Suppose for some reason your family gets only one bucket of water everyday for a week. Imagine what would happen? Would you be able to cook, clean utensils, wash clothes or bathe? What are the other activities you would not be able to do? What would happen if we do not have easy access to water for a long period of time?

Apart from drinking, there are so many activities for which we use water (Fig. 14.1). Do you have an idea about the quantity of water we use in a single day?

each activity by you and other family members. You may use a mug, a glass, a bucket or any other container to measure the amount of water used.

Table 14.1 Estimation of the amount of water used by a family in a day

Activity	Amount of water used
Drinking	
Brushing	
Bathing	
Washing utensils	
Washing clothes	
Toilets	
Cleaning floor	

DROPS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR RIVERS OF CHANGE

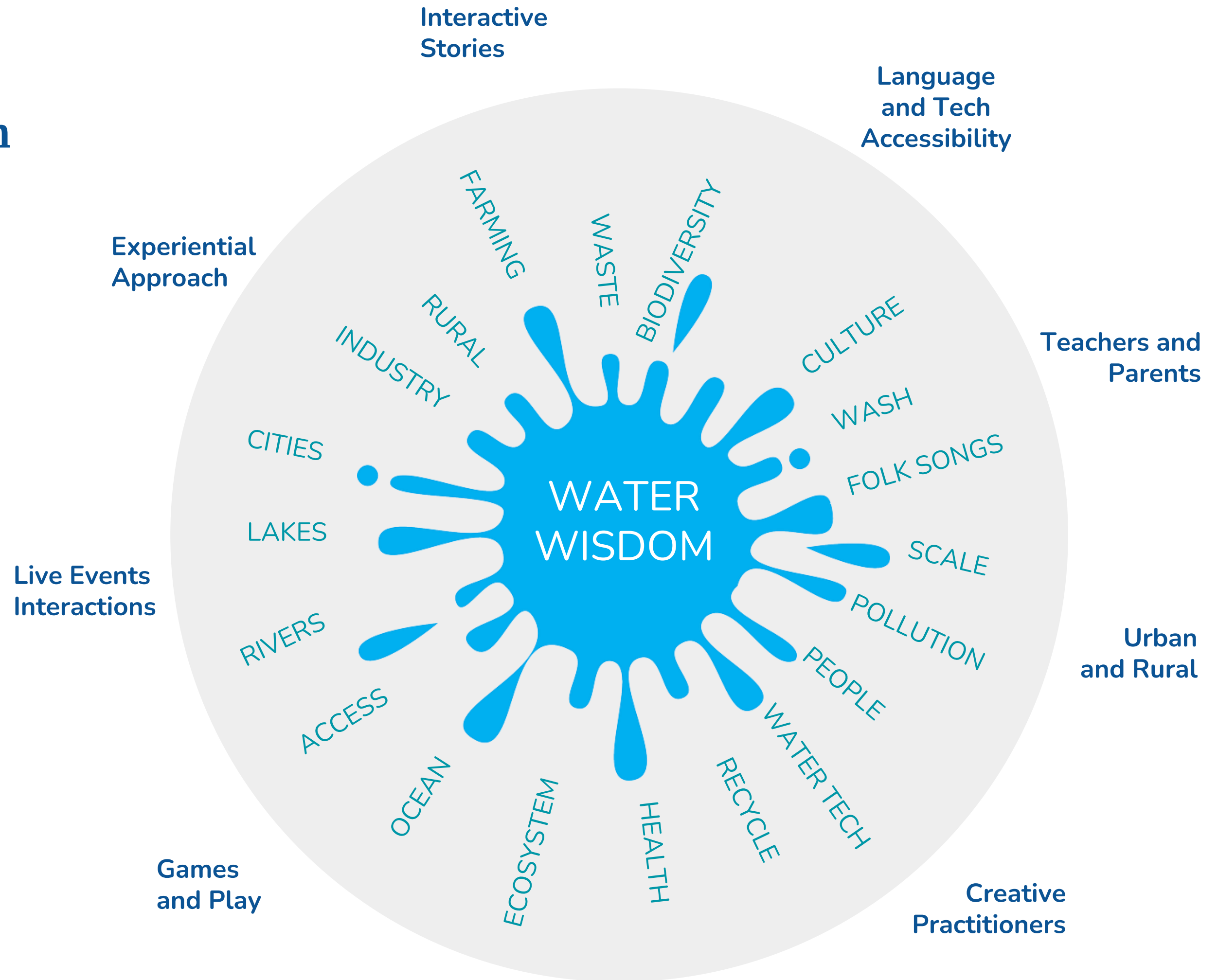
GLOBAL TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIAL

A hands-on guide to teaching and learning about water, sanitation, hygiene,



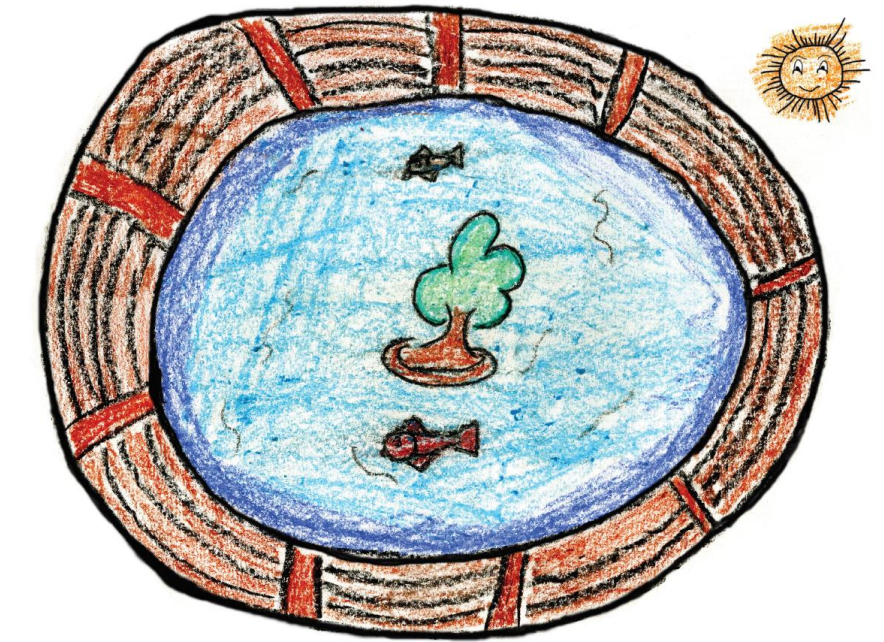
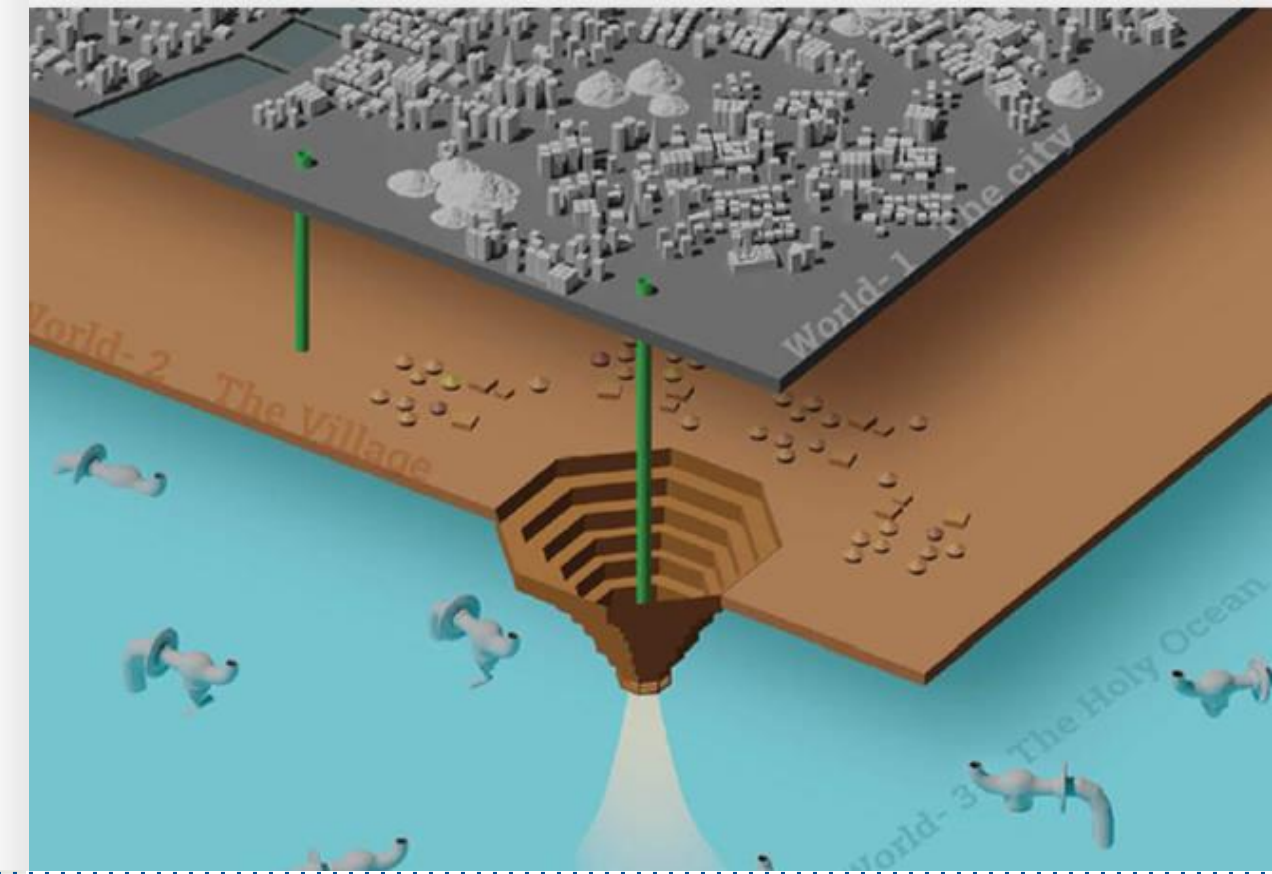
Holistic Water Education

- Re-Imagining an all-encompassing water education
- Using Design, New Media, Technology and Storytelling
- Physical and Virtual education
- Rural, Urban, Peri-Urban
- Building collective social responsibility



Art as socio-political and cultural practice

- From storytelling to music, from performance to visualization, the creative arts are playing an increasing role in engaging young people in critical, collective dialogue to share ideas of the “Water we Want” (UNESCO-IHP/WAMUNET)
- Education, awareness towards SDG 6 – communicating citizen science, complex data, rights of indigenous + marginalised communities



Muna: interactive fiction (top); storytelling with children at Sarkhej Roza

‘Mumbai Water Narratives’

In a year marked by a global pandemic, more than 30 professionals – water researchers, artists, social scientists and urban planners - came together to launch the Mumbai Water Narratives.

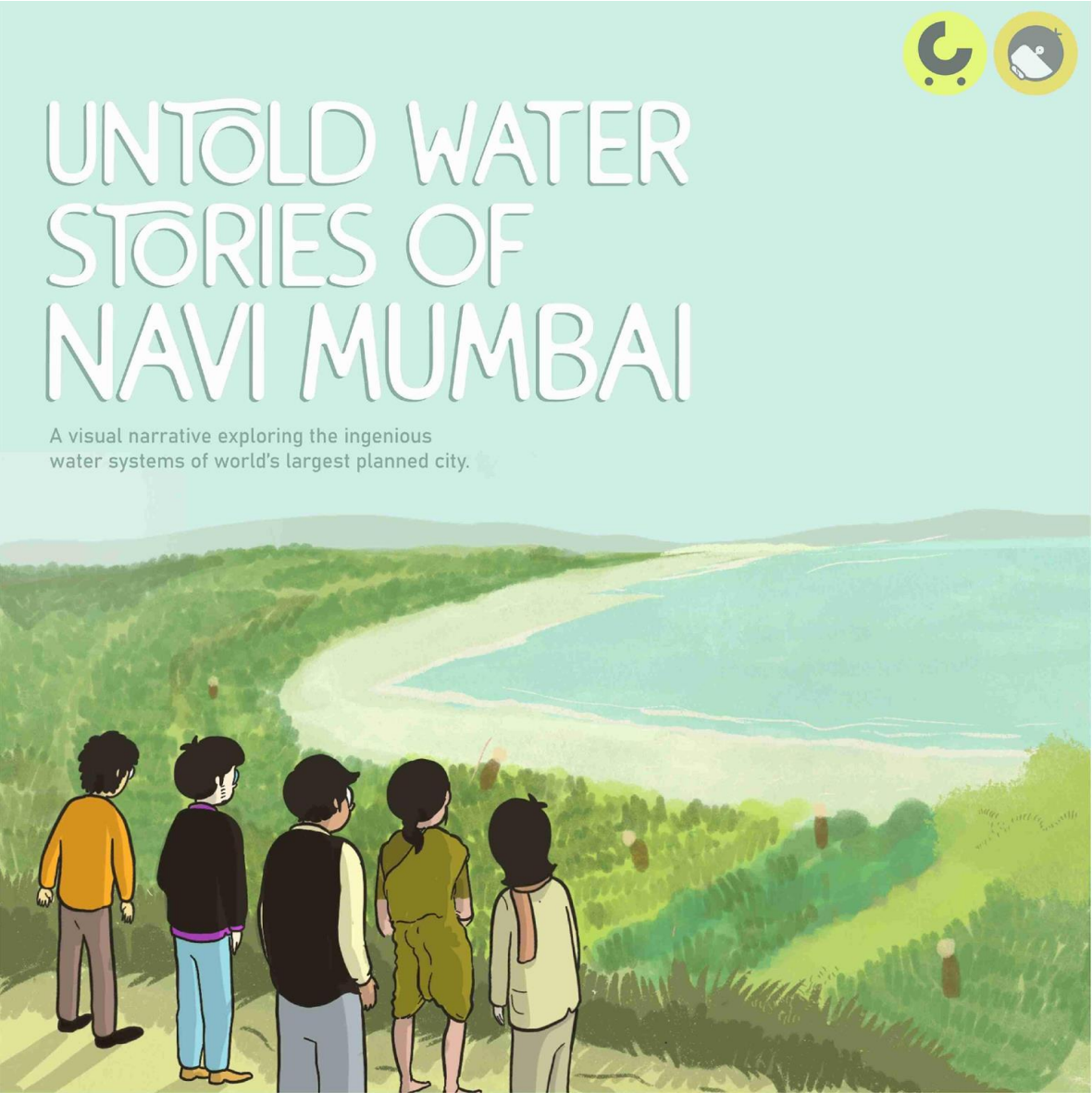
Confluence is their first virtual exhibition designed as six thematic galleries connected to water: heritage, culture, livelihoods, equity, saline waters and public health



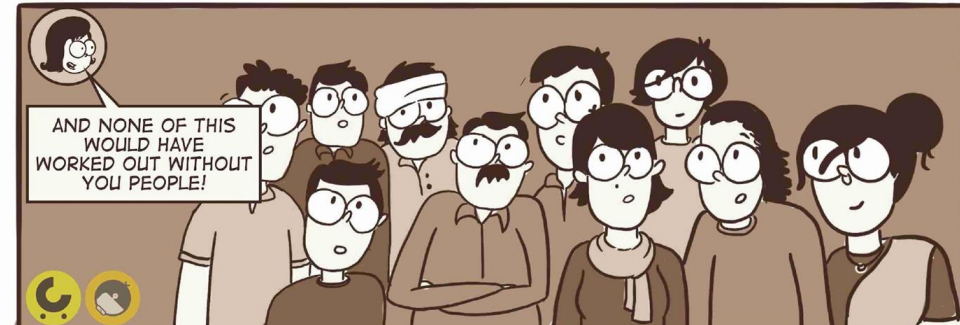
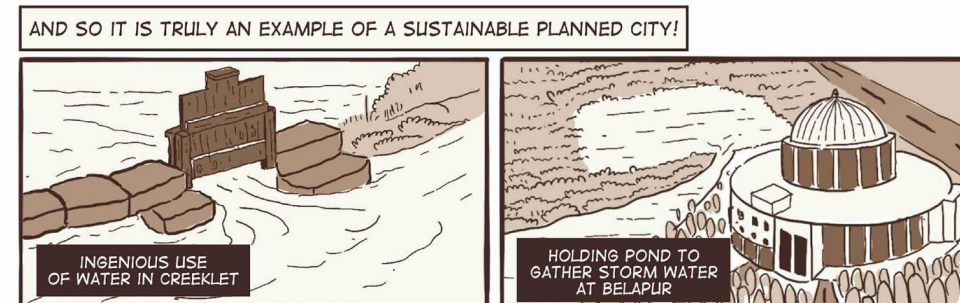
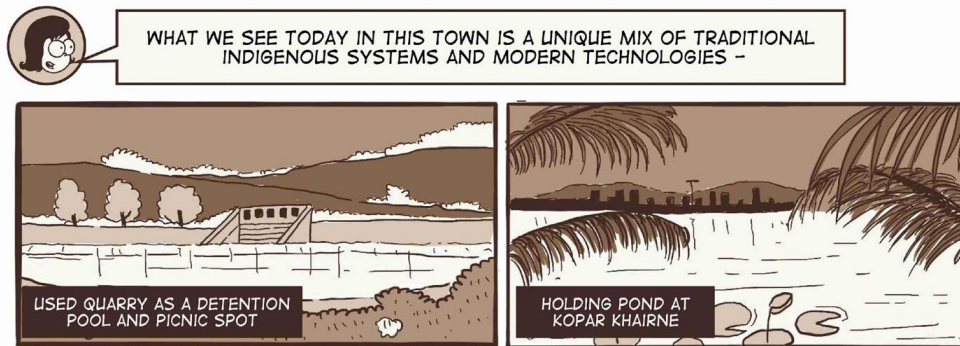
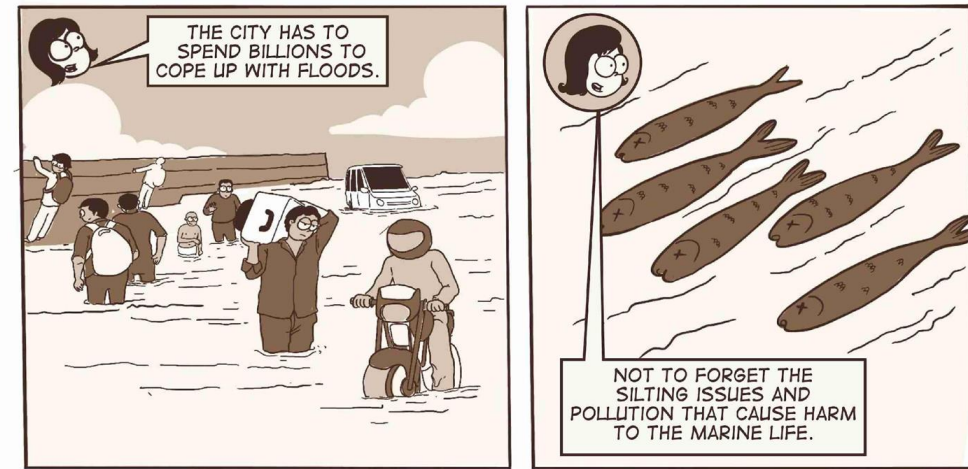
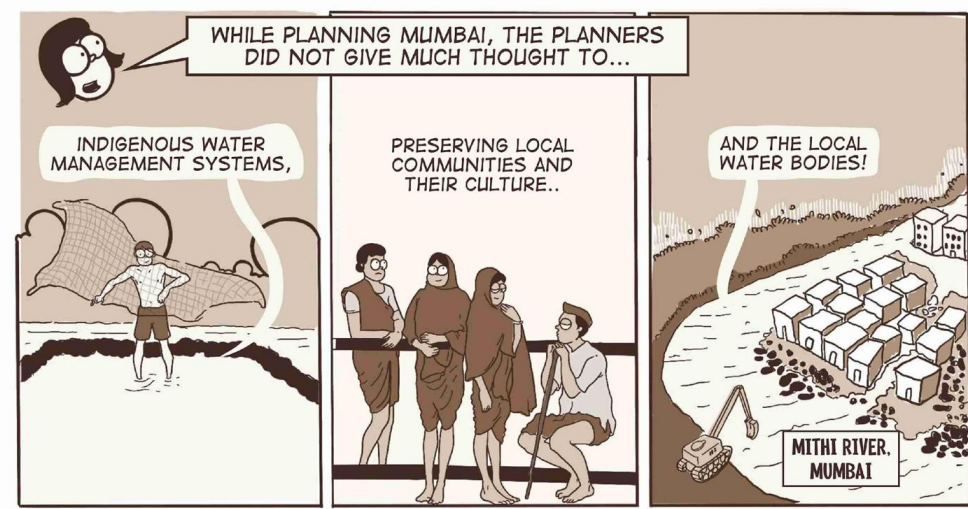
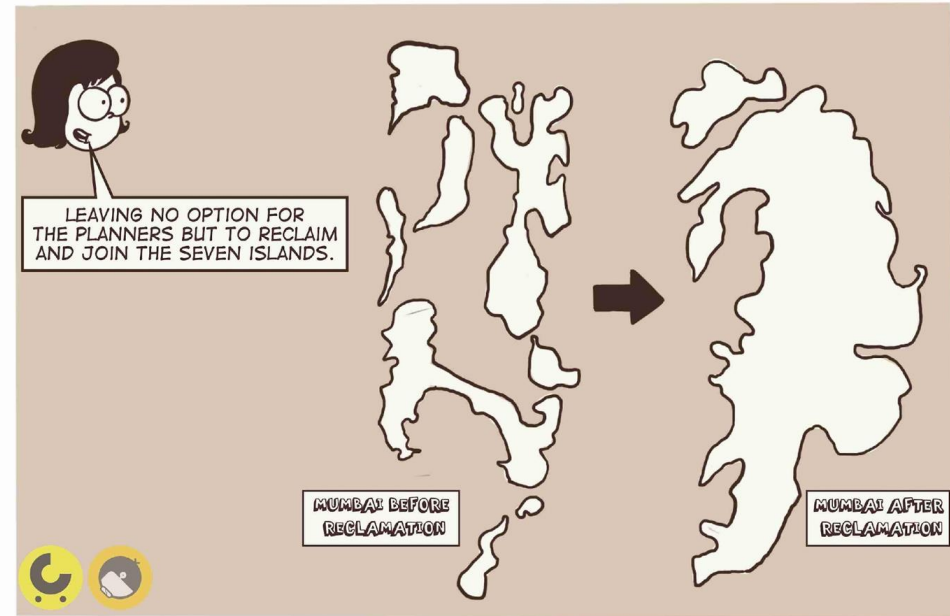
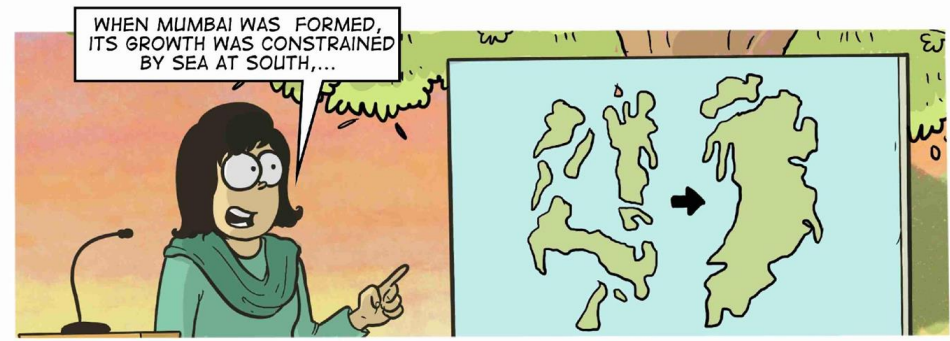
<https://confluence.mumbaiwaternarratives.in/>

Untold Stories of Navi Mumbai

Story of the planned water systems of Navi Mumbai, and responsibility of residents in maintaining this cultural heritage



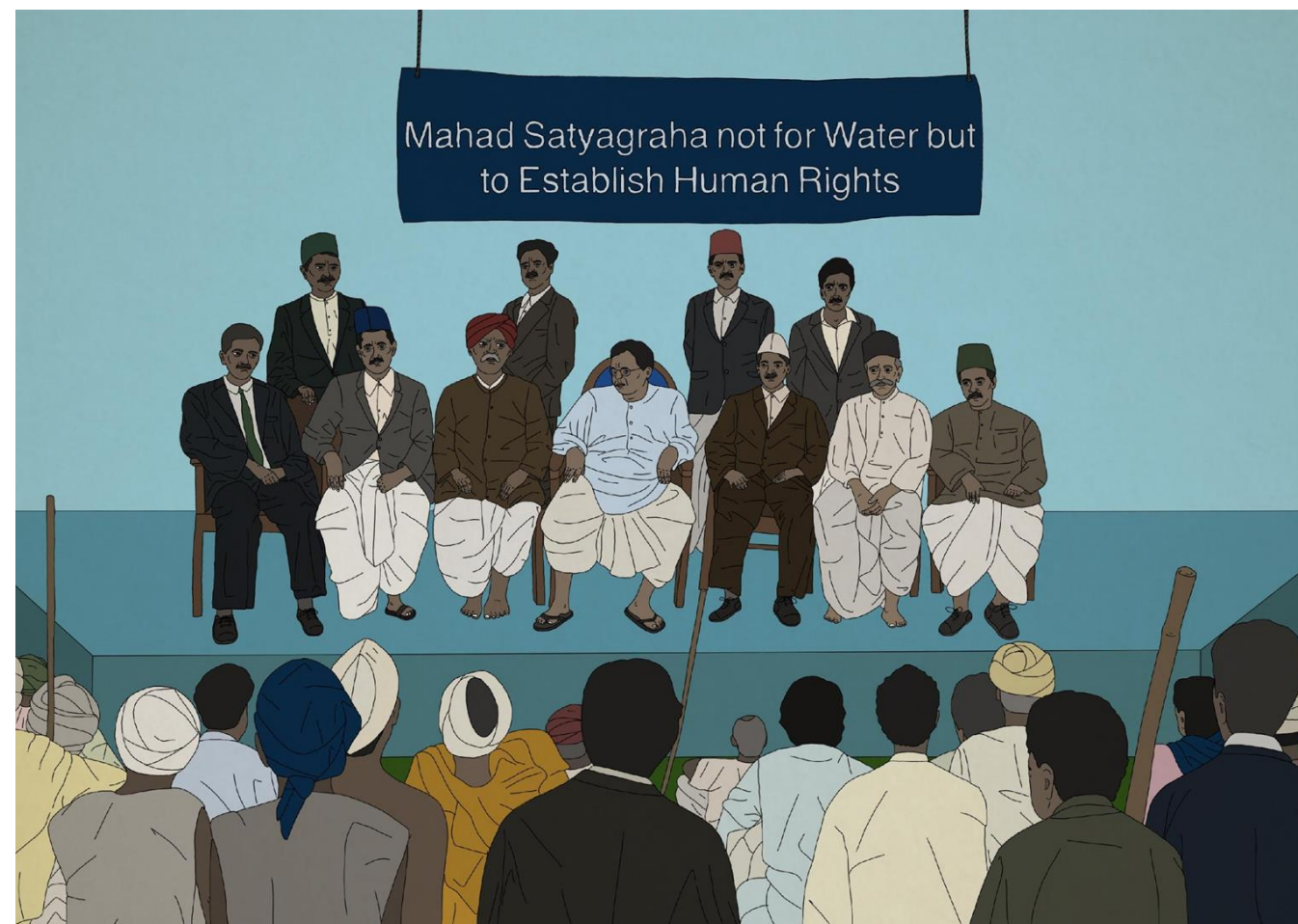
Graphic Novel, made by Ar. Ritu Deshmukh and Ar. Anuj Kale



Mahad Satyagraha

Illustrations by Siddhesh Gautam

History of caste and water in Mumbai explained via graphics. Retelling of history to draw attention to the politics of caste in the current scenario





How dare you untouchables pollute our water!!!

We don't practice casteism! Their utensils are separate because they're unhygienic!!!

They don't let me use their toilet... And my utensils are separate from theirs!

Pani Haq Samiti Calendar

Photostories and print calendar by Pani Haq Samiti

Exhibits the milestones of voluntary water activist organisation Pani Haq Samiti in the form of a calendar, along with milestone days in the history of Mumbai’s access to water.

MARCH

“सर्व मुंबईकरांना समान पाणी वाटप झालेच पाहिजे.”
पाणी हक्क परिषद, मुंबई
 १६ फेब्रुवारी २०१०
 आयोजक : युवा संस्था, गिरणी कामगार संघर्ष समिती, घर बचाओ-घर बनाओ आंदोलन

APRIL

March 14th
International Day of Action for Rivers

1927 - March 20th
Mahad Satyagraha takes place

March 22nd
World Water Day

2019 - March 30th
No Objection Certificate received from Mumbai Port Trust. This NoC allowed the residents of informal settlements on Mumbai Port Trust land to get water connections for the first time since Independence

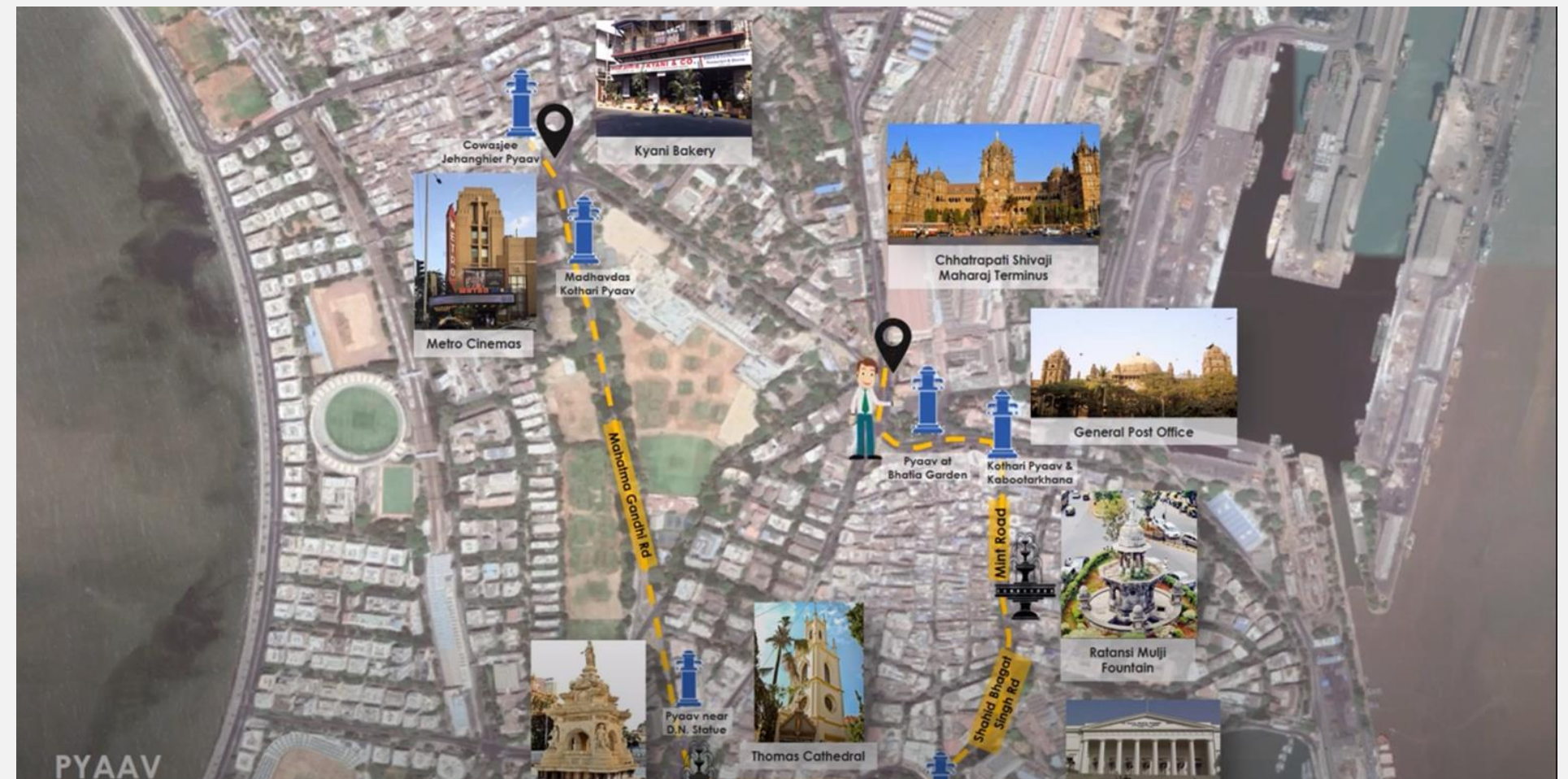
2020 - April 14th
Insan Vanha Pani Abhiyan was initiated

2019 - April 30th
A No Objection Certificate was obtained from the Aarey Forest administration for providing water connections

Once upon a *Pyaaav*

Documentary-animation film, made by
VastuVidhaan Consultants

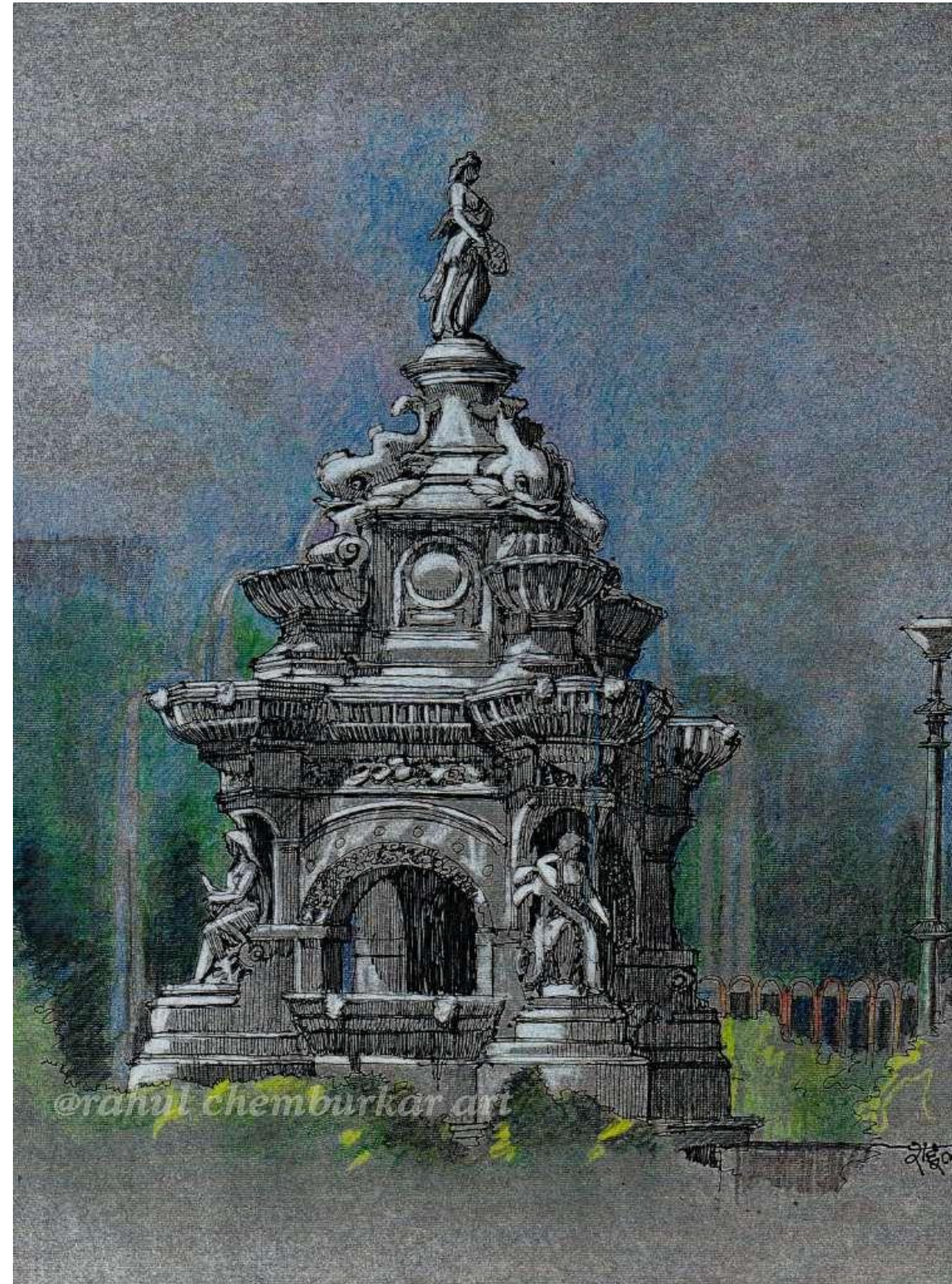
Mumbai's shared water heritage fountains have disintegrated and forgotten over the years. This virtual walk locates the last few remaining *pyaavs* in Mumbai and tells their stories



Once upon a *Pyaaav*

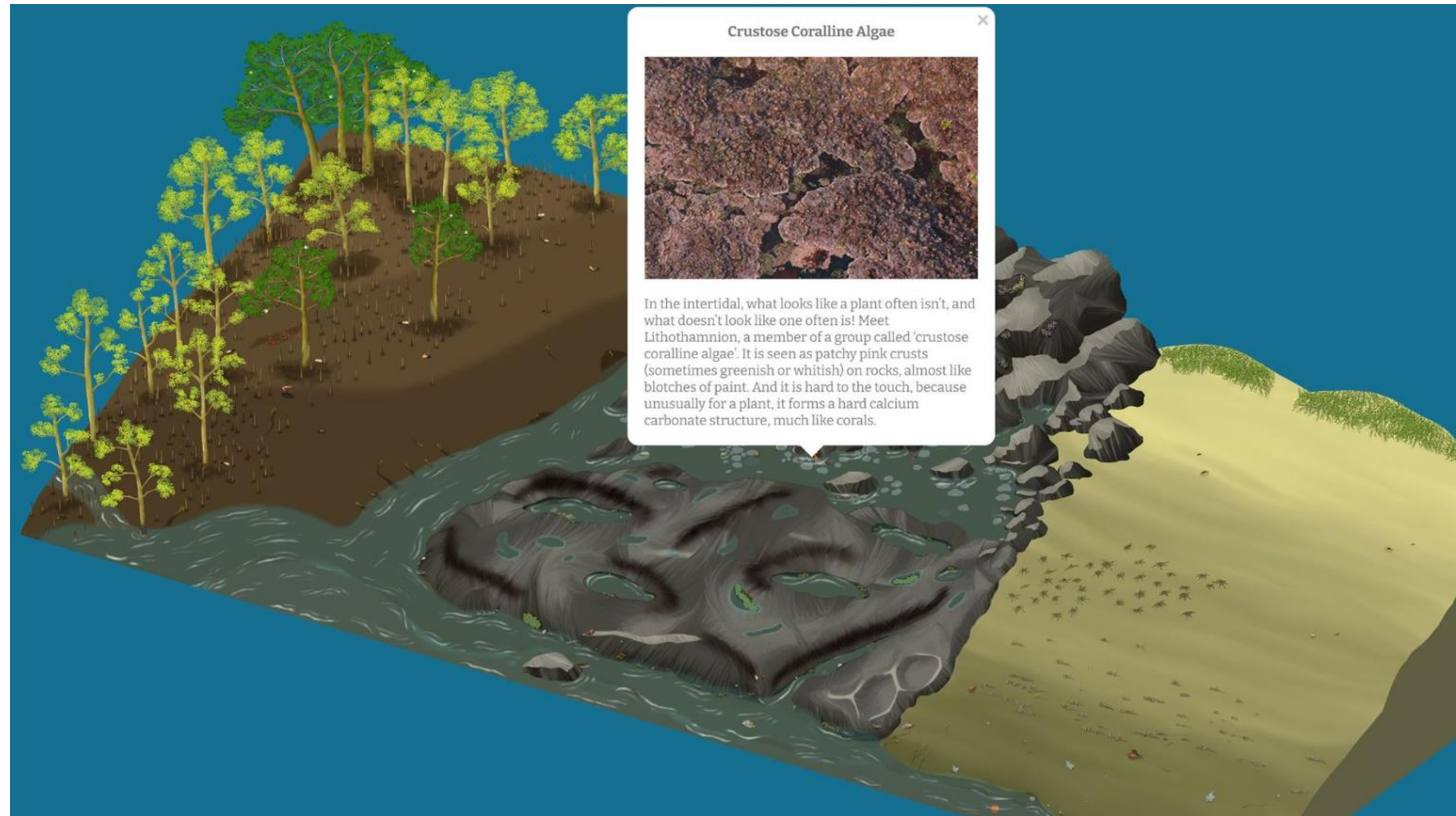
Postcards by Ar. Rahul Chemburkar

Sketches portraying the present and imagined conditions of pyaavs in Mumbai were reproduced in the form of postcards.



What comes to mind when you think about Mumbai's Coastline?

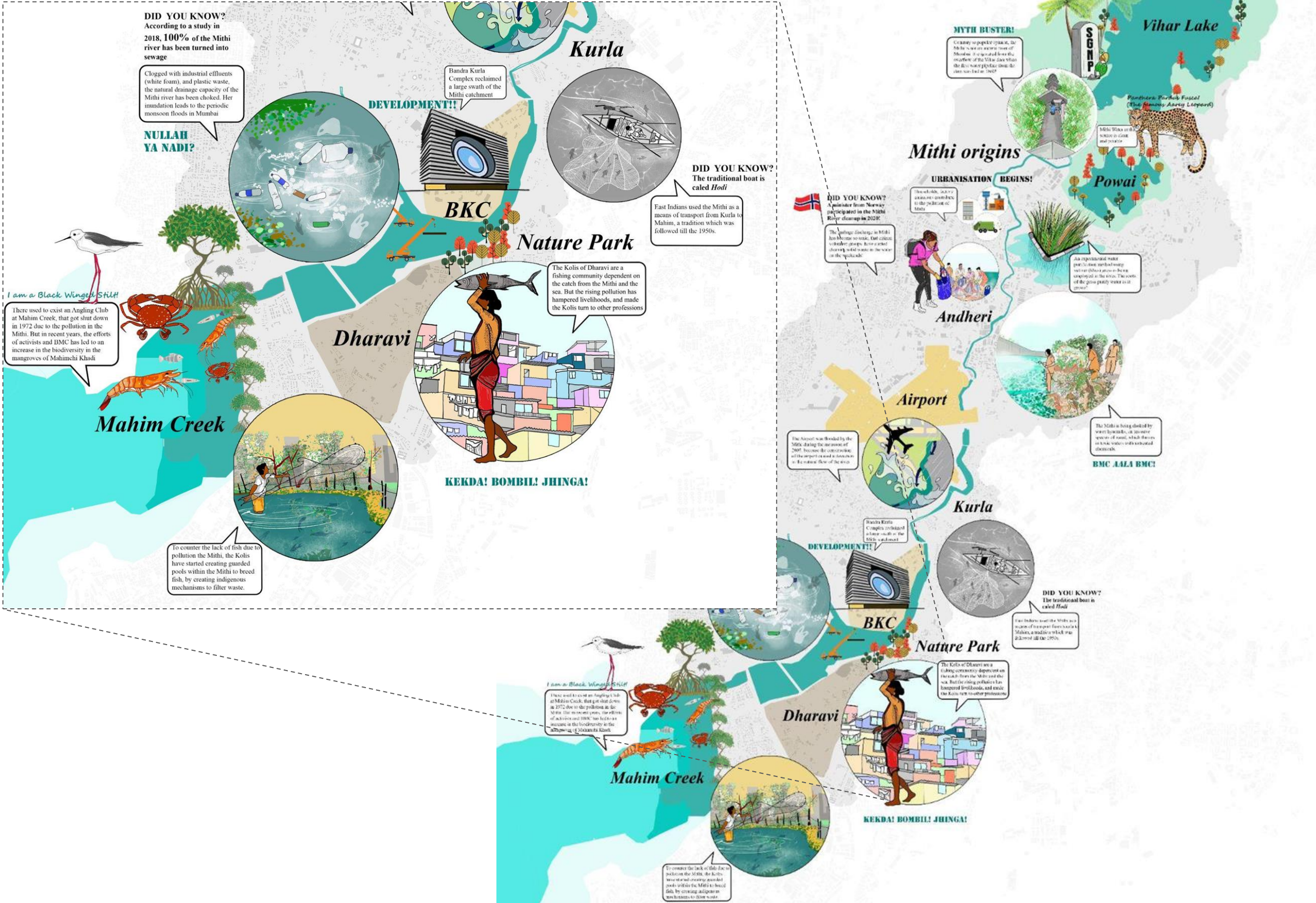
This virtual interactive shore of Mumbai allows for exploration of its unique ecosystem from the comfort of home.



The Origin of Mithi and other such Stories

Zoomable interactive map by Ipshita Karmakar

Oral histories and narratives - not usually documented during the development of the city - mapped using hand drawn illustrations. More layers unravel as you zoom in.



Water Worksheets

Interactive worksheets for children aged 6-12 years old based on research outputs of Confluence. One worksheet for each gallery.

IDENTIFY THESE MARINE CITIZENS OF MUMBAI


T I W E H
 E T O P T S D
 P R I W Y A H
 N O B T U T
 L S A N I
 A S E R S A T
 M E N N A E O
 D R E G E G C A B R
 R H T E L A E
 X N A D O
 N O B T U T
 L S A N I
 R P E S I T D
 A S E E N S K A
 E B U L N O B T U T
 M u m b a i
 W a t e r
 N a r r a t i v e s

WATER TRACKER

How much water do you consume for the activities listed below?

(In litres)

	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	Other
1. Brushing Teeth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Bathing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Flushing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Dishwashing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Laundry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Cooking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Drinking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Car Wash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Did You Know? :

One bucket bath uses 25 litres of water as opposed to 15 litres/ minute of a shower head



Pani ka Paigaam

A set of postcards - One from water to the residents of the city, and one set from the citizens of the city to the various water bodies in the city.
A set of blank DIY postcards was also created for physical engagement.



My dear friend Water,

You and I are intertwined by the simple act of cleansing. For you, cleansing is an inherent quality; to me it is a means of livelihood and life. I and thousands like me in the Dhobi Ghat wash scores of pieces of clothing and linen for hotels, hospitals and homes every single day.

Our relationship with each other is intimate. From the wee hours of the morning to late in the night, you are central to this ritual of cleansing as it continues with clockwork precision 365 days a year. I spend long hours immersed in soapy water, flogging, brushing and rinsing piles of garments in the largest open air laundromat in the world. And as I relax my tired limbs after a warm bath at the end of the day I often wonder what tomorrow brings.

Nestled in the central part of the city, our microcosm of work and stay is often eyed as a potential for development. Tempting though it sounds, I wonder how our livelihoods will survive without the centuries old washing pens, flogging stones and the places to dry and iron clothes.

Will this rapidly changing city remember the relationship between the dhobi and his washing cubicle? I often wonder...

Yours,
A Dhobi



To,

Text by: Minaz Ansari | Image by: Peak Change



Dear Mumbai,

I am the city vigilante, a cushion of velvety green providing a natural defence to your coast. We have coexisted for millennia as a group of islands protected by a fringe of humble mangroves.

My presence in the city is discreet and hence I am often ignored or misunderstood. Few know that I am a coastal ecosystem with a rich biodiversity, a nutrient rich breeding ground for fish, crabs, molluscs and sea turtles, a home for migratory birds. I also function as a carbon sink and a source of livelihood to local fishermen. My most important role to the city however, is that of a coastal barrier against flooding, which is a constant threat today due to climate change.

My existence is often threatened by dumping of debris and illegal building activities. My extents are diminishing due to the infrastructure mega-projects in the city. We could be heading to a time when I completely vanish from your coastline, leaving the city vulnerable to natural disasters. Till then, I stand guard, my roots wrapped in plastic waste, my waters reduced to sludge.

My vigil for my city continues.

Yours,
Mumbai Mangroves



To,

Text by: Minaz Ansari | Image by: Gopal S



Postcards by Minaz Ansari and Jinisha Lodaya