



# SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Image credits: Dibakar Roy/ Unsplash



# NAGARF

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

CF CHARLES  
CORREA  
FOUNDATION

# NAGARI 2026

## **Sustainable Futures for a Changing Climate**

Indian cities stand at a critical threshold. Shaped by decades of uneven and haphazard planning, many urban centres are already grappling with strained infrastructure, housing shortages, and growing pressure on natural resources. Layered on to this is the climate crisis, amplifying and compounding these stresses, with its impacts most acutely felt in urban life.

Nagari 2026 invites filmmakers to document not only the crisis, but to explore what resilience actually looks like within our cities: the initiatives working today, the solutions still unfolding, and the deeper question:

***What does it mean for our urban centres to respond to change, rather than resist it?***



# THEME

Across Indian cities, people are already inventing ways to adapt: through shared water systems, local cooling strategies, waste innovations, and collective stewardship of public space. We invite you to document a community, institution, or grassroots effort that offers a grounded vision of resilience emerging from everyday urban life. Your subject may be intimate or expansive, local or systemic, hopeful or unresolved.

Whatever the entry point, we ask filmmakers to carry three questions into their work:

- **What** is the identifiable climate concern?
- **Who** does this solution help and who does it leave out?
- **Have** these solutions sustained over time?

Nagari 2026 seeks to document acts of resilience across **four interlinked themes**:

*OSHO's Teerth Park in Pune, a 12-acre Zen-style garden in Koregaon Park, stands as a powerful example of ecological renewal. Once a polluted wasteland, it was transformed in the early 1990s into a serene, thriving green space, using a meandering stream, aquatic plants, and fish to achieve nearly 90% water purity.*

Image credits: joachimbago / iStock





Image Credits: Ashden

# 1. RISING TEMPERATURES

As cities heat up, those who work, travel, and live in the city's most exposed environments; streets, construction sites, markets and dense housing often bear the greatest burden. Follow these lived realities and examine how design, access, and social inequity shape who finds relief and who must endure.

What specific policies, programs, or initiatives are people using to make cooling a shared and accessible right in cities rather than a privilege?

*Umaben Metkal cools her home in Saraspur with a simple coat of solar-reflective paint, an affordable, practical solution supported by the Mahila Housing Trust, helping women turn climate awareness into action under the Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan.*





Image credits: BeritK

## 2. WATER

In cities across India, water can be both abundant and absent, flooding streets during the monsoon, yet disappearing from taps in the summer. Tell the story of a landscape or community negotiating this paradox, and look closely at how older ecologies, infrastructures, or everyday practices might offer ways of co-existing with water.

How might cities design solutions that treat water not as a threat or shortage, but as a shared system to be understood, governed, and sustained?

*Powai Lake in Mumbai, long affected by sewage inflow and solid waste, is now the focus of ongoing restoration efforts. Citizen groups and environmental organisations are working to revive the lake, recognising its potential to support biodiversity and serve the community.*



**NAGARI**  
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## 3. ECOLOGY

Image Credits: Anwarali Kapasi

Urban expansion continues, often at the cost of wetlands, coastlines, river edges, tree cover, and older built fabric. Through the lens of a site in transformation—a construction zone, redevelopment project, or endangered landscape, explore what is lost, what is gained, and what is at stake.

What approaches are cities adopting to enable growth without erasing the ecological systems that sustain them? And how are these being implemented on the ground?

*Every year, nearly a million migratory birds, including up to 180,000 flamingos, find refuge in Thane Creek. Supported by Amazon's Climate Fund, Hasten Regeneration is working to protect and restore this vital habitat from industrial waste and rapid urbanisation.*





## 4. AIR QUALITY

-Image Credits: bruev

Air pollution in Indian cities is shaped by mobility systems, vehicular emissions, construction, industry, and patterns of urban growth. Yet its impacts are not evenly felt. Trace how air moves through the city across roads, homes, and bodies, and reveal how infrastructure, policy, and everyday choices contribute to the air we breathe.

What would it take to reimagine mobility and urban life in ways that make clean air a collective, lived reality rather than an individual escape?

*In New Delhi, city officials often use fire trucks to spray water on roads, streets, and buildings to help curb severe toxic smog during peak pollution season.*



**NAGARI**  
SHORT FILM COMPETITION

## REGISTRATION + OUTLINE

### STEP 1

The registration for the Nagari Short Film Competition will be online, you can [fill the form here](#). The competition is open to everyone. Each team should consist of a filmmaker, an architect/urbanist and a social scientist.

#### The registration requires three deliverables:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of all participating members, in order to understand the background and professional experience of the team.
2. A brief outline or abstract of the film script, up to 400 words.
3. A brief note on the audio-visual treatment and 4-5 accompanying visuals.
4. Previously produced short films / work samples.

The deadline for submission of the outline is **12:00 noon IST on Monday, 18 May 2026**

You will be required to upload the above deliverables as a part of the registration form, so please keep them ready before attempting to fill the form.

#### Interviews:

Selected submissions will be interviewed by CCF and may be selected for the Nagari Shortlist.

## SHORTLISTING + SHOOTING

### STEP 2

#### Selection:

CCF will first select 16 teams, who will be given 15 days to detail and edit their scripts guided by the Mentors and Subject Experts.

**12 teams** will be selected and awarded an honorarium of **₹75,000** each. The funds will be dispersed in 3 installments, linked to stages of the film's progress.

Films must adhere to the following specifications:

1. Time: up to **7 minutes** in length.
2. Context: Sustainable Futures for a Changing Climate
3. The film must be shot in 16:9 frame and submitted in HD (1080p).
4. The film can be in any language. The final film will have to be submitted with a separate subtitle track in English.
5. Films should be non-fiction documentary films.

## REVIEW + SHARING

### STEP 3

#### Final review:

Selected participants will create their films under the guidance of the Mentors, and each Mentor is responsible for 2 teams. These 12 films will be reviewed by an independent Jury in November.

There will be 3 categories for the awards:

1. The Jury shall confer the Nagari Golden Bioscope and the Nagari Silver Bioscope.
2. The Jury may award a Special Jury Prize.
3. Additionally, the film with the most public engagement will be awarded the People's Choice Award.

CCF may also recognise a member of the film making team who has shown exceptional talent.

All participants must send, as a downloadable file, their final films to **nagari@charlescorreafoundation.org**

All videos will be uploaded on the CCF YouTube channel, 'NagariTV'.



# SCHEDULE 2026

## REGISTRATION

MAY - JUNE

**24 April**

Registrations open.

**18 May**

Registrations close.

Teams intending to participate will have to submit the registration form, along with an abstract and outline of the proposed film, and a brief note on the profile of the team members.

**28 May**

Shortlisting of 16 teams.

## SELECTION

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

**28 May - 8 June**

Interaction of the 16 teams with Mentors and subject experts.

**8 June**

Submission of detailed scripts.

**15 June**

Announcement of the 12 teams.

**June - November**

Shooting + Editing + Post-production.

Shortlisted teams will produce their films under the guidance of the Mentors.

## COMPETITION

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

**30 November**

Submission of all the 12 shortlisted films.

All shortlisted films will be uploaded on the CCF YouTube channel 'NagariTV'.

**December - January**

Jury + Polling.

A window for the Jury to review the films and the teams to spread the word and gather support for the People's Choice Award.

**January 2027**

Award Ceremony.

*Dates are tentative and are subject to change.*



# MENTORSHIP

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**DEEPA DHANRAJ**

Writer, Filmmaker  
Bengaluru

Deepa's documentaries and writing that span a period of forty years, engage with questions related to women's status, political participation and resistance. Her films have been screened and awarded at national and international film festivals, and she has also served on the Jury at National and International film festivals.



**AVIJIT MUKUL KISHORE**

Filmmaker, Educator  
Mumbai

Avijit is a filmmaker and cinematographer, working in documentary and inter-disciplinary moving image practices. He is involved in cinema pedagogy as a lecturer and curates film programmes for prominent national cultural institutions.



**PANKAJ RISHI KUMAR**

Filmmaker, Educator  
Mumbai

After graduating from FTII Pune, India, in 1992, with a specialisation in Film Editing, Pankaj was assistant editor on Sekhar Kapur's 'Bandit Queen'. He made his first film 'Kumar Talkies' in 1998. Pankaj has become a one-man crew- producing, directing, shooting and editing his own films under the banner of Kumar Talkies. His films have been screened at film festivals all over the world. Pankaj also curates and teaches.



**JABEEN MERCHANT**

Film Editor, Teacher, Script Consultant  
Mumbai

Jabeen Merchant is a film editor trained at the FTII Pune, with a wide experience in the mainstream industry as well as independent, art house cinema. She also teaches filmmaking and consults on scripts. Her work, which includes fiction features, documentaries, web series and short films, has been seen in countries across the world, in festivals and movie halls.



**BINA PAUL**

Filmmaker, Artistic Director  
Kochi

Bina works mainly in Malayalam-language films. She has over fifty editing credits. Bina won her first National Film Award for Revathi's '*Mitr, My Friend*', which had an all-woman crew. She has been the artistic director of the International Film Festival of Kerala and in 2017 she was appointed as one of the heads of "Women Collective in Cinema".



**SOURAV SARANGI**

Filmmaker, Geologist  
Kanthi

Sourav Sarangi is an award-winning film maker from India. He put down his geologist's hammer to pick up a camera and tell stories. Sourav has been working in television since 1988. His journey began from Kanthi, a small town in South Bengal, to become a fellow of the Film Independent, LA, in collaboration with The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Photo: Flickr

# AWARDS



**NAGARI GOLDEN BIOSCOPE**

₹ 1,50,000



**NAGARI SILVER BIOSCOPE**

₹ 75,000

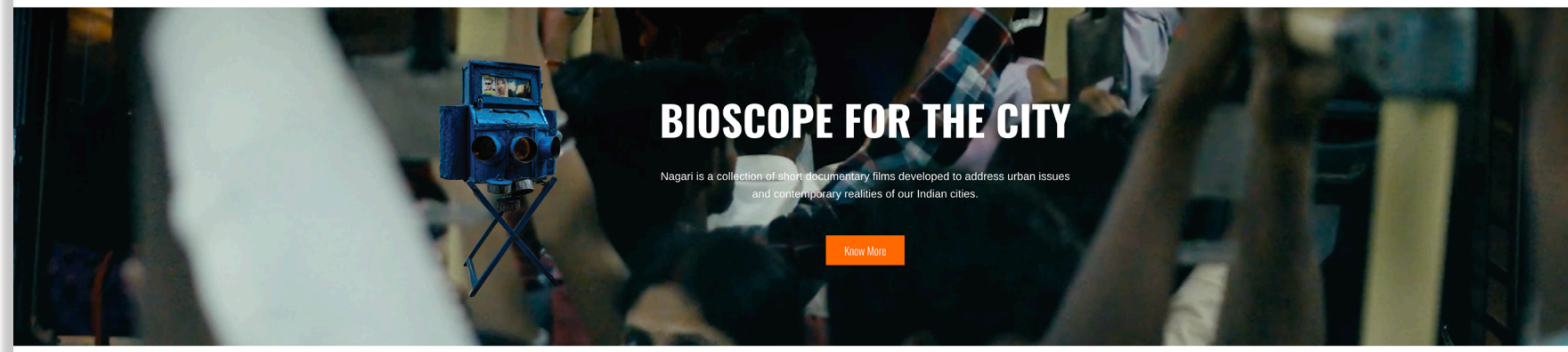


**SPECIAL JURY PRIZE**

₹ 25,000



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**



# BIOSCOPE FOR THE CITY

Nagari is a collection of short documentary films developed to address urban issues and contemporary realities of our Indian cities.

[Know More](#)



**SHORT FILM COMPETITION**  
The Nagari Short Film Competition is held annually, and is designed to guide and develop films that focus on urban India.



**ALL FILMS**  
Click here to view all films from our previous editions.



**SCREENINGS & EVENTS**  
By highlighting urban challenges through screenings across cities, Nagari intends to spark public interest, encourage critical dialogue, and inspire collective action.



**RESOURCES**  
To read blogs, news, or see how Nagari films can become an educational tool, click here.

Search

Editions

- 2025 - Public Realm
- 2024 - Mobility
- 2023 - Reclaiming the Urban Commons
- 2022 - Water
- 2021 - People and Livelihoods
- 2020 - Housing Adequacy

Awards

Select Multiple

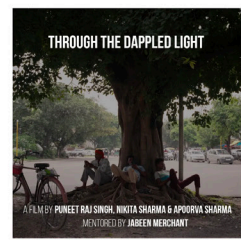
City

Select Multiple

Mentor

Select Multiple

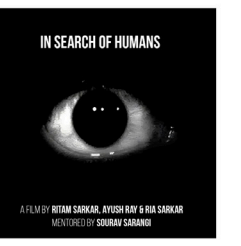
[Reset](#)



**Through The Dappled Light**  
A FILM BY PUNEET RAJ SINGH, NIKITA SHARMA & APURVA SHARMA  
MENTORED BY JABEEN MERCHANT



**महाद्वार (Mahadwar - The Great Corridor)**  
A FILM BY ADWITA PRATI & VISHU CHAKRABARTY  
MENTORED BY PANKAJ RISHI KUMAR



**In Search of Humans**  
A FILM BY RIYAN SARKAR, AVISHU RAY & RISHU SARKAR  
MENTORED BY SARDAR SIDHANI



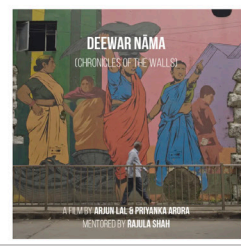
**Mauj Ni Khoj (Seeking Fun)**  
A FILM BY ASHWINIYU DUTTA, BATAL MANDSHIKAR, DRASHTI AGRAWAL, ISHA THAKKAR, MINIPAL, SAHIL & SHIVADREEP DAS  
MENTORED BY KEEPA BHANUJA



**Hissa**  
A FILM BY SHUBHANKAR KARI & SUSMITA TILAKKAR  
MENTORED BY PANKAJ RISHI KUMAR



**How Much Space does a Firefly Take?**  
A FILM BY CHIRANJEEV NEEL, UJAY DAZ SOMANI, SHUBHAM BACHCHER & SURAJ YADAV  
MENTORED BY JABEEN MERCHANT



**DEEWAR NAMA (FONDLES OF THE WALLS)**  
A FILM BY ANKUR LAL & PURNIMA AGARWAL  
MENTORED BY PANKAJ RISHI KUMAR



**PASCAL PREMIER LEAGUE**  
A FILM BY SAPANA TANEJA  
MENTORED BY PANKAJ RISHI KUMAR



**स्फूर्त शक्ति (SCENT OF NOCTURNAL FLOWERS)**  
A FILM BY ANAMIY DEEK, HIMANSHU AGARWAL, SAPIKASHI CHOUHAN & SUKANYA SAHA  
MENTORED BY BINA PAUL

# ABOUT NAGARI

The Nagari Short Film Competition is an annual competition designed to guide and develop films that focus on urban issues, specifically in Indian cities. Nagari is a bioscope for the city, and through this lens, we explore diverse urban conditions and focus our attention on them.

Brought together by film, Nagari aims to be a collaborative process between like-minded individuals from different walks of life. The competition follows a unique format of a guided exercise that is supported by Mentors. Nagari encourages filmmakers, architects, planners, social scientists or simply any interested individuals to engage with the issues around them, channel these ideas towards film and create a greater understanding of the urban realm.

For more information, please visit our website: [nagarifilms.org](http://nagarifilms.org)



# CHARLES CORREA AND FILMS

Charles Correa loved films! He often said that films and toy-trains led him to become an architect and an urbanist. While a graduate student at MIT, Correa directed, wrote and animated a 10-minute film, 'You and Your Neighbourhood' (1955). This was the first film submitted as a thesis at MIT!

Two decades later, the Films Division, Government of India asked him to make a film on his buildings, but he instead wrote and directed 'City on the Water' (1975). The film was on the planning of New Bombay (later Navi Mumbai) – an idea he had co-authored as a response to the already overcrowded the city of Bombay. The film looks at solutions developed by urban planners for less congested living options for the constantly moving workforce of the city.

In 1986, Correa curated the landmark exhibition 'VISTARA: The Architecture of India' in collaboration with the Government of India. For this, he also wrote a 9-projector audio-visual (directed by Imtiaz Dharker) which was screened during the exhibition.

Correa's last foray into creating film was a short video, "The Blessings of the Sky" (1995) which he wrote and directed. Aside from these four films, Correa engaged deeply with other filmmakers who used his buildings, his advocacy and his life as a subject of their own films.

## FILMOGRAPHY

**1955** Director, Scriptwriter, Animator, and Photographer for 'You & Your Neighbourhood', Masters Thesis, MIT

**1975** Director and Scriptwriter for documentary 'City on the Water', Films Division, Government of India

**1986** Scriptwriter for Audio-Visual 'VISTARA: The Architecture of India'

**1995** Scriptwriter and Director for Video 'The Blessings of the Sky'

Still from 'City on the Water' Films Division of India.

# THE CHARLES CORREA FOUNDATION

The Charles Correa Foundation (CCF) is an initiative of internationally renowned architect and urban planner Charles Correa. CCF acts as a catalyst for architectural, urban design, planning, and community-based projects that improve the condition of human settlements in India. Our work follows an organic process that originates with identifying an issue or concern that has the potential to use a design intervention.

Sharing walls with heritage houses in the precinct of Fontainhas, the Foundation studio occupies a small footprint in this historic area. Our office is part of the neighbourhood fabric and the Fontainhas community. Located at street level, CCF always has its doors open to anyone interested in engaging in our work.

All work undertaken by CCF is on a non-profit basis. The Charles Correa Foundation is constituted as a duly registered not-for-profit public charitable trust and has been exempted u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act. Our activities are registered under CSR with registration number: CSR00055206.

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[www.charlescorreafoundation.org](http://www.charlescorreafoundation.org)  
[www.nagarifilms.org](http://www.nagarifilms.org)



**NAGARI**  
SHORT FILM COMPETITION

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