

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI

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AGNI

Editorial

BMC Launches 'Pedestrian First' Campaign

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) launched the 'Pedestrian First' campaign in August 2026 to reclaim Mumbai's footpaths from illegal encroachments, unauthorized hawkers, and unlawful parking. The Supreme Court of India has recognised usage of footpaths by pedestrians as a fundamental right and has directed authorities to keep them free from obstructions.

Key Highlights of the Campaign

Objective: Create safe, obstacle-free, and pedestrian-friendly walkways across all 26 administrative wards for the nearly 50% of Mumbaikars who walk for their daily commute.

Phase 1 Target: The civic body aims to clear obstructions across an initial 320 kilometers of footpaths, having already cleared roughly 68 km within the first two weeks.

Leadership Oversight: Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide has been personally leading on-site inspections across various city wards, prioritizing high-density pedestrian zones near railway stations, metro stations, hospitals, and markets.

Housing Society

Ultimatum: The BMC issued a one-month deadline for housing societies and commercial establishments to remove illegal access ramps built over footpaths for vehicles.

Policy Tweaks: The civic body modified the Universal Footpath Policy 2023 to completely scrap exceptions that previously allowed temporary parking or structures on pavements in rare cases.

Infrastructure Upgrades: Alongside demolition and clearance drives, the BMC has floated over 15 tenders for immediate footpath repairs, undertaken station-area pedestrian upgrades (such as at Prabhadevi railway station), and moved to ban uneven paver blocks on newly constructed walkways.

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BMC Intensifies 'Pedestrian First' Drive In Eastern Suburbs, Plans Better Footpaths Around Railway Stations

The BMC has intensified its 'Pedestrian First' campaign in Mumbai's eastern suburbs with focus on accessible footpaths around railway stations.

So far, 13 roads are identified in Mulund, and 94 hawking stalls outside Bhandup railway station and 77 stalls outside Kanjurmarg railway station will be relocated. Overall 20.50 km of footpaths across 14 roads in S Ward will be made

pedestrian-friendly.

Footpath Improvement Plans

In three-hour-long ground visits in civic T, S and N wards on Thursday, Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide directed officials to prepare detailed plans to improve footpaths and regulate traffic around railway stations, particularly during peak hours. The wards

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BMC CLEARS 134 ENCROACHED FOOTPATHS IN A MONTH

Nearly 197 km of pedestrian space reclaimed across Mumbai

 Shefali Parab-Pandit

The BMC has cleared 134 encroached footpaths across Mumbai in just a month, reclaiming nearly 197 km of pedestrian space from illegal obstructions. In a major crackdown, civic officials also removed 94 unauthorised stalls from footpaths around Bhandup Railway Station (West) in the past two days, restoring space meant for pedestrians and easing movement in one of the city's busy transit zones.

As part of the drive, the BMC has targeted 14 footpaths across Bhandup for encroachment removal, with action already underway on 11. "The crackdown has cleared footpaths for commuters entering and exiting Bhandup Railway Station, helping ease pedestrian and traffic congestion during peak hours. Citizens can now access an obstruction-free route from the station towards Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg," said a senior civic official.

Bhandup Encroachment Drive

The operation deployed 5 JCBs, 10 dumpers, over 50 civic officials and staff, 100 workers and more than 70 police personnel. The BMC's S Ward is also intensifying efforts to eliminate Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) and reclaim public spaces. The civic body has warned against unauthorised shops, stalls, construction and material storage on footpaths, with strict action against violators.

Under the first phase of its campaign, the BMC aims to clear encroachments from 200 footpaths, with action already underway on 134. So far, enforcement has been carried out at 1,459 locations. The citywide drive spans all 26 BMC administrative wards, targeting the restoration of footpaths for pedestrians.

Meanwhile, the BMC is set to relocate licensed civic and Aarey Dairy stalls obstructing footpaths, with ward-level reviews underway. Of the city's 1,603 Aarey stalls, many occupy or encroach upon pedestrian pathways. The BMC plans to shift them to designated sites or available plots and will soon approach the Aarey administration, said an official.

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Mumbai's Prabhadevi station gets pedestrian push

Mumbai's Prabhadevi railway station is set for pedestrian safety upgrades under the BMC's 'Pedestrian First' campaign, with work underway to widen the South FOB entry and provide an additional staircase, while a 12-metre-wide FOB is under consideration.

As part of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) "Pedestrian First" campaign, work has begun to facilitate the widening of the narrow entry and exit point on the western side of the South Foot Overbridge (FOB) at Prabhadevi railway station to ease passenger congestion and improve

Contd on Page 2

Pedestrian First' campaign



Contd from Page 1 include areas like Mulund, Bhandup, Kanjurmarg and Ghatkopar.

Under the campaign, 13 roads in T Ward have been taken up for footpath clearance, and encroachment removal action is being undertaken to create uninterrupted pedestrian corridors.



The move is aimed at freeing up footpath space and creating an unobstructed pedestrian route to the railway station. While at Kanjurmarg railway station (West), 24 stalls will be removed to make the surrounding area more accessible to pedestrians.

The affected hawkers will be provided alternative premises as part of the rehabilitation process. In the second phase, the BMC plans to remove 26 stalls at Bhattipada Junction on Lal Bahadur Shastri Road and another 27 stalls at Peppermint Chawl.

Overall, the BMC plans to make 20.50 km of footpaths across 14 roads in S Ward (Bhandup, Kanjurmarg) accessible for pedestrian use.

Action In Ghatkopar

Meanwhile, in N Ward (Ghatkopar), Bhide inspected footpaths around Shivaji Technical School in Pantnagar, Ghatkopar. Encroachment-removal action has been planned along five roads, including Shraddhanand Marg, Jhunjhunwala Marg, Ankush

Gawde Marg and Harishchandra Desai Marg.

The exercise will make around 3 km of footpaths available for pedestrians. The civic officials were directed to immediately remove unauthorised hawkers, encroachments and other obstructions from footpaths.

Badwaik Hospital Waste Model

The BMC will also strengthen measures such as fines for roadside dumping, CCTV surveillance and regular waste collection through dedicated vehicles. The BMC cited the area around Badwaik Hospital in Bhandup as a model for eliminating a garbage-vulnerable point.

Commercial establishments



and residents had reportedly been dumping aluminium, furniture, mattresses, sanitary products, dry fruits and hospital waste on the road.

Waste collection vehicles based on the type of waste generated by commercial establishments were introduced, and collection teams were deployed at commercial premises. Garbage bins were also placed at suitable locations, while bin attendants were deployed in three shifts to guide users.

For 15 days, residents and commercial establishments were counselled on proper waste disposal, followed by another 15 days of intensified waste collection.

The initiative resulted in the elimination of the garbage-vulnerable point and provided relief to local residents and passengers using the nearby bus stop.

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Mumbai's Prabhadevi station gets pedestrian push

Contd from Page 1 pedestrian movement.

The existing toilet block adjacent to the South FOB entry has been dismantled by Western Railway after obtaining the necessary no-objection certificate (NOC) from the BMC. The dismantled material has also been removed from the site.

The demolition has cleared the space for widening the entry and exit point and providing an additional staircase on the western side of the South FOB.

Work underway for additional staircase

Trial pits are currently being carried out to check for any infringement of existing utilities and identify existing utility services, including water pipelines, electrical cables, and other utilities.

The foundation layout has been marked and excavation for the proposed footings is in progress. Fabrication of the required steel structural members is also underway at Dadar Workshop.

The work is being undertaken on priority to facilitate the additional staircase and widening of the entry and exit point, with the aim of improving the safe and smooth movement of passengers at Prabhadevi Station.

Western Railway has agreed to provide two toilets from the existing railway colony toilet block for use by nearby residents. The BMC has also been requested to make arrangements for additional toilet facilities, while Western Railway is exploring the possibility of providing four toilet facilities through existing arrangements.

Additional 12-metre FOB under consideration

The provision of an additional 12-metre-wide FOB at Prabhadevi station was also discussed with the AMC.

An earlier proposal had been submitted to the BMC for an additional FOB, including a staircase and lift on the western side, using available BMC land.



The civic body had not agreed to the proposal at that time.

However, following the dismantling of the Carol ROB, officials have observed increased pedestrian movement and congestion on the existing FOB. In view of the increased passenger movement and the need for safe and smooth circulation, an additional 12-metre-wide FOB is now being considered.

The AMC has agreed in principle to examine the proposal. Western Railway and BMC will jointly identify and finalise a suitable location, taking into account passenger convenience, pedestrian circulation, land availability, and other site constraints.

The proposed additional FOB, along with suitable staircase and lift arrangements, is expected to ease congestion on the existing FOB and provide safer and more convenient movement for commuters.

Joint action plan

to ease passenger congestion

A joint coordination meeting was held on Tuesday under the guidance of Singh with Verma Lavangare and senior officials of MRIDC, local police and traffic police to chalk out a phased action plan for improving passenger circulation and access at Prabhadevi West.

The meeting also discussed obtaining the necessary land permission for the landing of the proposed 12-metre-wide FOB, strict action by the police and traffic police against errant two-wheeler parking and spur widening at the North/West entry-gate FOB landing.

The coordinated measures are aimed at easing passenger congestion and ensuring safer, smoother, and more convenient movement for commuters at Prabhadevi station.

The Supreme Court of India has recognised usage of footpaths by pedestrians as a fundamental right and has directed authorities to keep them free from obstructions.

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What Borrowers Should Know About Digital Loans, Debt & Credit Scores



1 October 2026
(Thursday)

Aparna Ramachandra, Founder-Director of Rectify Credit, explains the real cost of "no paperwork, instant loans" and their consequences for your financial life.

Aparna Ramachandra is the Founder-Director of Rectify Credit, India's first credit advocacy, advisory and counselling company. She has over 20 years of experience across financial counselling, banking, insurance, risk management and equity research, and has conducted numerous workshops on credit-related issues. She has also been a columnist with *Mint*, *Outlook Money*, *Femina* and *Moneylife* and is the author of *Why is My Credit Report Screwed Up?*, published by Network18.



Aparna Ramachandra

ONE MISSED EMI,
ONE RUINED SCORE
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Social media algorithms are designed to draw you in — learn how they work.

MoneyLife Foundation conducted a detailed study of digital loans.

Tyush Agarwal will explain the findings of the study, which has been shared with regulators.



Venue

Rangaswar Hall, Y. B. Chavan Centre, Jagannathrao Bhosle Road, Nariman Point, Near Vidhan Bhavan Metro Station, Mumbai 400 021

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Festive waste to power hospitals

Shefali Parab-Pandit

In an initiative aimed at turning festival waste into clean energy, the BMC and the Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandal have joined hands to scientifically process food and organic waste generated during Ganeshotsav. The electricity produced through the process will be utilised for suitable requirements within hospital premises.

Nearly 8 to 10 metric tonnes (MT) of food and organic waste is expected to be generated daily at the mandal's Prasad Kaksh and Annachhatra during the festival. The wet waste will be segregated at source, collected through dedicated vehicles and transported to BMC's biomethanation plants at Nair Hospital, Kasturba Hospital, GTB Hospital and Sion Hospital, instead of being sent for

conventional disposal.

The initiative follows a letter from Sudhir Salvi, honorary secretary of the Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandal, to the assistant commissioner of the F South ward, seeking a coordinated mechanism for the timely collection, transportation and scientific processing of the large quantities of wet waste expected during the festival.

Each biomethanation plant has a processing capacity of approximately 2 MT per day. Under the initiative, around 80 MT of organic waste is proposed to be processed over 11 days, with an estimated generation of 7,744 units of renewable electricity. The actual output will depend on the quantity and quality of segregated waste received and the operating conditions of the plants.

Each biomethanation plant has a processing capacity

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After revamp, Jawahar balbhavan to now get science park

Maharashtra CM Fadnavis said that more students from municipal schools should be connected with Jawahar Balbhavan through the initiative of the Mumbai mayor. The Bills were passed without discussion as the Opposition BJP and JD(S) continued their protest inside the Assembly demanding the resignation of minister B Nagendra over alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that an "Open Science Park" will be developed at the Maharashtra State Jawahar Balbhavan campus in Mumbai's Charni Road area which will benefit nearly one lakh students annually.

The announcement was made after the inauguration of the renovated Jawahar Balbhavan building by the chief minister.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar, School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse, Skill Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha and Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde.

Senior officials from the education department and cultural institutions were also present.

Focus on students' overall development

After inspecting the new building, CM Fadnavis said that more students from municipal schools should be connected with Jawahar Balbhavan through the initiative of the Mumbai mayor.

He stated that the centre



would contribute significantly towards the all-round development of children by encouraging creativity, learning and cultural participation.

Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar said Jawahar Balbhavan is not merely a building but a centre that has shaped the dreams and talents of lakhs of children over the past 75 years.

She said the renovated structure would provide children with opportunities to explore creativity through activities such as sports, music, dance, painting, sculpture and other artistic programmes.

According to her, Balbhavan has continuously helped children stay connected with art, culture and creativity.

Modern facilities added to building

School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse said the institution has consistently encouraged imagination and creativity among children aged between 4 and 16 years.

He said the renovated building now includes:

- A modern auditorium and library on the ground floor
- Dance, drama and music rooms on the first floor
- Art galleries and a presentation stage on the second floor

The building also contains three fully equipped halls with a combined seating capacity for 100 students each.

Officials said around 500 students will be able to receive training in various art forms at the same time.

The upgraded

Contd on Page 4

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Jawahar balbhavan to now get science park

Contd from Page 3 facility is expected to train nearly 10,000 students every month and close to one lakh students annually.

Bhuse also announced that



the Maharashtra School Education Department aims to establish one Balbhavan centre in every district of the state.

Agreement signed with Sir JJ School of Arts

During the event, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Maharashtra State Jawahar Balbhavan and Sir JJ School of Art.

The agreement was exchanged between Balbhavan director Neeta Patil and Sir JJ School of Art officials Kishor Ingle and Shashikant Kakade.

Officials said the partnership would help students receive high-quality training and guidance in the field of arts.

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Email: mmj.agni@gmail.com
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Published by
AGNI
Chadha Bldg. 1st Flr, Plot No. 95, Wadala (W), Mumbai - 400031
agni.mumbai99@gmail.com
Ph: 2416 5956

Maharashtra govt to fast-track Worli jetty development, plans helipad

The Maharashtra government is fast-tracking the development of the Worli jetty to enhance Mumbai's water transport, tourism, and emergency medical services. The project includes constructing a DGCA-licensed helipad, with the appointment of a Project Management Consultant (PMC) nearing completion to handle technical approvals and environmental clearances.

Key details regarding the Worli jetty development include:

Purpose: The jetty, originally used for construction materials during the Coastal Road project, will be repurposed for public transportation, water ambulances, and tourism.

Helipad Project: The BMC is developing a DGCA-licensed helipad to facilitate emergency medical services and bolster tourism, with feasibility cleared by Pawan Hans Ltd.



Status: A structural audit by IIT-Bombay deemed the site suitable. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) have been invited for development via a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Location: The facility is

situated 120 meters into the sea near the Amarsons Garden Interchange/Worli Dairy area.

This initiative is part of a larger plan to leverage existing maritime infrastructure for improved connectivity in Mumbai.

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Festive waste to power hospitals



To volunteer in AGNI or to form Advanced Locality Management (ALM) contact your respective Ward Coordinators below:-

AGNI WARD COORDINATORS				
WARD NAME	AREAS	COORDINATOR(S)	PHONE	EMAIL
A	Churchgate, Colaba, Cuffe Parade, Fort, CST	Jennifer Shetty	9223415069	jenniferagni@gmail.com
D	Malabar Hill, Mahalaksmi, Opera House, Girgaum	Theo D'Souza	9820803940	theomsouza@gmail.com
F/North	Sion, Wadala, Matunga, Dadar(E), Antop Hill	Nikhil Desai	9819930405	n.c.desai2012@gmail.com
G/North	Mahim, Dadar(W), Matunga(W), Dharavi	Bulu Saldanha	9920323831	bulu_saldanha@yahoo.com
H/East	Bandra(E), Khar(E), Santa Cruz(E), Kalina	Reuben Dias	9930569225	reuben6947@yahoo.co.in
H/West	Bandra(W), Khar(W), Santa Cruz(W)	Cherian Joseph Sanjeev D'souza Madhu Poplai	9892314442 9820803840 9820048996	cheriankjoseph@yahoo.com sanjeevd270@gmail.com madhupoplai@hotmail.com
K/East	Vile Parle(E), Andheri (E), Jogeshwari (E)	James John	9324086140	k-jame.sjohn@hotmail.com
K/West	Vile Parle (W), Andheri (W), Jogeshwari(W)	Sandra Alex	9820602521	sandraalex2357@gmail.com
L	Kurla, Nehru Nagar, Chandivli	Nutan Bhalla	9819171015	nutsie59@gmail.com
N	Ghatkopar, Vikhroli	Kishor K. Chudasama	9821051346	kishorkc_shantu@gmail.com
P/South	Goregaon (West)	Anthony Dias	9821291660	diasapvoice@gmail.com
R/South	Kandivli (East & West), Charkop	S. K. Nangia	9322258038	sknangia2004@yahoo.com
R/North	Borivli, Dahisar (East West, IC Colony)	Willie Shirsat Shrikant Soman Glenda Almeida	9820213392 9324228946 9820291563	shirsatwillie382@hotmail.com shrikant_soman@gmail.com glenda301@gmail.com
M/West	Chembur	Krantikumar Sherkhane	703900255	krantikumars@gmail.com
S	Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Powai	Pamela Cheema	9820150748	pamelachema@gmail.com
T	Mulund	Laxmidas Thakkar	8080011966	lthakkar@yahoo.co.in

Contd from Page 3 of approximately 2 MT per day. Under the initiative, around 80 MT of organic waste is proposed to be processed over 11 days, with an estimated generation of 7,744 units of renewable electricity. The actual output will depend on the quantity and quality of segregated waste received and the operating conditions of the plants.

The electricity generated will be utilised for suitable requirements within the hospital premises, including lighting in patient wards, corridors and common areas. The plants are operated and maintained by the BMC-appointed agency, M/s Aerocare Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

Kiran Dighavkar, deputy municipal commissioner (Solid Waste Management), said, "The project demonstrates how organic waste generated during major public festivals can be converted into a useful resource, while promoting source segregation, scientific waste processing, renewable energy and the principles of a circular economy."

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